

10 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

PROJECT DETAILS

Title of project Zero Emissions Noosa Communication and Implementation Strategy (CIS)(Module 2)

Is your project:

Small Large >\$20,000

Name of lead project proponent/organisation Zero Emissions Noosa Inc.

Project partners (please list) A Memorandum of Understanding committing to zero emissions in Noosa Shire by 2026 was signed by 14 key community and business organisations in November 2016. Those organisations were Noosa Council, Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, Noosa Biosphere Community Association, Country Noosa, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Tourism Noosa, Noosa Chamber of Commerce, Noosa Junction Traders, Noosa Shire Residents and Ratepayers Association, Central Queensland University, Sunshine Coast University, Noosa Landcare, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, and Noosa Parks Association. Since that time, private sector businesses including EnviroProject, Ecotekk, SPS Energy, Smart Grid Energy and Our Power have given strong support to our goal, and will be on-going partners in this project.

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Summary of project aims and objectives (max. 200 words) (note this summary may be used for communicating to the public)

ZEN is adopting a two stage approach to achieving its goal of zero emissions by 2026.

The first stage (Module 1) has been separately applied for, and will develop a road map of implementation priorities based on modelling the most efficient and effective pathways to deliver on our zero emission reduction goal.

The aim of this stage (Module 2) is intended to commence implementation of the recommended strategies from Module 1 to achieve that goal. Our initial calculations are that the renewable energy investment to 2026 may be in the order of \$100M in employment and innovation. To achieve this, our objectives are:

First, to engage with residents, community organisations and businesses in cost-effective strategies to deliver 100MW of renewable energy by 2026.

Second, to work in partnership with a virtual cluster of renewable energy businesses to assist residents and businesses in their decision-making processes;

Third, to build a strong partnership with Noosa Council, Energex, universities and the State Government to facilitate research, innovation and employment around all aspects of energy supply and demand, focusing particularly on demand management and opportunities for virtual power plant initiatives within the shire.

PROJECT PLAN

NBRF Priority areas – Please indicate which areas the project intends to address

The overarching purpose of this grants round is *prosperity from protection*, an ambition which can be delivered within four priority areas.

Please indicate which of these priorities your project responds to, noting that your project could be relevant to one or more of these priority areas.

- 1. Contribution to the long-term health of Noosa River, Estuary and downstream marine values for current and future generations.**
- 2. Contribution to the best practice and innovative management of our hinterland, particularly Kin Kin catchment, to deliver sustainable use of our land, water and agricultural assets.**
- 3. Improved biodiversity management within the Biosphere with a focus on icon species.**
- 4. Sustainable socio-economic development proposals, feasibility studies, prospectus or new financing mechanisms which can deliver long term prosperity *and* protection to the Biosphere and its communities.**

In no more than 600 words, please indicate how you intend to undertake the project, clearly describing:

• The project's objectives and methodology

The aim of this stage (Module 2) is to develop specific work programs based on the recommendations from Module 1 to achieve the goal of zero emissions in Noosa by 2026. We propose the employment for 2 days a week of a Coordinator with significant community engagement and energy policy implementation skills. A rigorous recruitment and selection process will be undertaken.

The coordinator will work in conjunction with ZEN Inc. volunteers and will be required to deliver on the following objectives:

First, to continue to engage with residents, community organisations and businesses to promote cost-effective strategies to deliver zero emissions by 2026. This will be done by developing professional social networking tools, face to face engagement with community and business groups, newsletters, media and participation in relevant business and community events

Second, to work in partnership with a community of renewable energy businesses to assist residents and businesses in their decision-making processes; This will include a web site providing advice on technical requirements, finance and bulk buy arrangements. This objective will also include the collection of illustrative, real world case studies of the cost-effectiveness of solar PV and pay back times.

Third, to continue to build a strong partnership with Noosa Council, Energex, universities and the State Government to facilitate research, innovation and employment around all aspects of energy supply and demand, focusing particularly on ground-mounted solar PV (Solar farm), demand management and opportunities for virtual power plant initiatives within the shire.

• Key stages of the project and milestones

Stage 1:

- Agree work program priorities with ZEN Inc. and partner organisations based on

recommendations of Module 1 report;

- Commission professional branding and design for all communication avenues (website, Facebook, e-newsletter, letterhead, events, presentations)
- Develop content for information resources for a variety of audiences
- Present strategies and identified actions to broad range of community and business groups, including Lions, Probus, Zonta, Noosa Chamber of Commerce, Cooroy Chamber of Commerce, Noosa Shire Residents and Ratepayers, Tourism Noosa, Innovate Noosa, schools etc.

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Stage 2:

- Develop partnership with solar installers, and stand-alone website for virtual cluster of installers and relevant information for residents and businesses, including short videos of the experiences of residents, community groups and business case studies.

Stage 3:

- Seek collaboration with Noosa Council, Energex, universities and the the State Government to facilitate research, innovation and employment around all aspects of energy supply and demand, focusing particularly on ground-mounted solar PV (Solar farm), demand management and opportunities for virtual power plant initiatives within the shire.

An indicative timeline across the life of the project

With the Module 1 “road map” completed by the end of 2017, we would propose commencement of Module 2 in January 2018 and run for 12 months. As the proposal is for a person working 2 days a week, a realistic timeline would be as follows:

Stage 1 – January-December

Stage 2 - March-December

Stage 3 - May-December

• How your project activities will achieve your chosen NBRF Priority Area(s)

Whilst the focus on reduction of carbon emissions will assist in the global effort for Priority Areas 1, 2 and 3, our immediate impact will be very much in the socio-economic benefit. We anticipate this will occur through:

- Better information and opportunities for residents, community groups and businesses, particularly regarding finance, technical specifications, and bulk buy opportunities for roof top solar pv;
- The zero emissions target will act as a catalyst for innovation, business investment and job creation;
- Ethical investment opportunities will be created for projects such as a solar farm;
- The development of the road map and investment in a coordinator to implement its findings will position Noosa in the eyes of Energex, universities and governments as a serious and responsible partner for trialling innovative energy management technologies and potentially attract external grant funding.

What are the main risks or limitations of your project? How might you mitigate those risks? (max. 300 words)

The main risk is that the person employed does not possess the expected level of skills and ability to deliver the project. This will be mitigated by initial rigorous recruitment and selection, setting of a performance plan, ongoing collaboration between Project Officers (paid and volunteer) and Management Committee and regular (6 weekly) meetings with project partners.

Please explain how each of your project partners will contribute to the project, and how you

intend to manage the collaboration. If relevant, please indicate if your participating organisations have worked together in the past. (max. 300 words)

A key contribution from each of the project partners will be the opportunity to draw upon their respective knowledge about sectors of the Noosa community in terms of best ways to engage with that sector, and the likely factors that act as barriers to greater PV take up in that sector (eg lack of time to research appropriate technology, landlord/tenant barriers, lack of suitable finance). We will also draw upon their respective communication strategies with their members to promote the aims of the ZEN project. A 6-weekly progress meeting will be scheduled to report on activities to date and proposed next steps.

PROJECT BUDGET

Please provide a complete budget for your project indicating whether there is any in-kind or cash contribution to be made by the participating partners.	Organisation	Description of expenditure	Cash contribution	In-kind contribution	Total
		Phone plus data plan	\$1000		
		Travel @ 66 cents per kilometre	2500 kilometres	\$1650	
		<i>Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010.</i>	Level 6	\$38.17 per hour	\$31757
		Superannuation	\$3017		
		In kind contribution (Project officers)	1050 hours x \$50	\$52500	
		In kind contribution (stakeholders)	250 x \$30 =	\$7500	
		\$5000 communications material design and branding	\$5000		
		Total	\$42424		

RESPONSES TO SELECTION CRITERIA

(max. 300 words for each criteria)

Criteria 1 (Weighting: 30%)

Clear alignment with one or more of the NBRF Priority Areas.

Our project addresses all 4 priority areas. All major scientific bodies (IPCC, IUCN *et al*) recognise the serious impacts of climate change on eco-systems, including waterways, oceans and species.

For Noosa, the iconic koala has been noted to be particularly at risk from climate change. The IUCN 2009 report Koalas and Climate Change has noted: "Koalas have very limited capability to adapt to rapid, human-induced climate change, making them very vulnerable to its negative impacts".

The UN Paris Agreement noted that a major global effort of all parties is required if we are to keep global warming below 2⁰ C and preferably at 1.5⁰ C. Stronger action within the Noosa community may motivate other communities nationally and internationally to take up the challenge of

reducing carbon emissions and therefore provide a life line for koalas.

Our project is thus an essential part of the global jigsaw of effort which is required. We cannot ask others to contribute if we do not also contribute.

However, the most direct focus of our proposal is within the socio-economic criterion. Globally, there is a “renewable energy innovation revolution” occurring, and we can position the Noosa community and businesses as leaders in this field. This will be primarily in the fields of roof top solar PV, ground mounted solar PV (solar farms) and “Internet of Things” energy efficiency and demand management. In this project, we will develop and promote cost-effective installation of roof-top PV, information for businesses to make an investment decision, examine opportunities for one or more solar farms, and partner with Energex in demand management innovation to address challenges related to very high PV penetration. These actions will result in lower installation costs, encourage community investment opportunities, and position Noosa as an attractive partner for university research and government research funding.

Criteria 2 (Weighting: 30%)

Strong project management, design and delivery mechanisms to achieve project goals, and wherever appropriate, collaboration between organisations with demonstrated delivery capacity.

This segment of the ZEN mission will follow on from Module 1, which is a professionally led research project to identify the most efficient and effective pathways to achieve zero emissions in the Noosa context by 2026 (Module 1). That program will be developed by ITP Renewables who have undertaken similar studies for Zero Emissions Byron and East Gippsland Council. ITP also have strong links with the University of New South Wales and the Australian Photovoltaic Institute. We can thus be confident we will have clear and justifiable directions for action.

In addition, the ZEN Management Committee draws on a breadth of project management and business expertise, including former councillor Vivien Griffin (President), Geoff Acton, John Martin, emeritus Professor with Latrobe University, Joe Shlegeris, successful businessman (Treasurer), Dr. Carina Anderson from Central Queensland University and Annie Guthrie, President of Noosa Biosphere Community Association. The Secretary is Darren Walters, principle of Ecotekk, who has strong links to Tourism Noosa and Cleantech Sunshine Coast.

There will also be regular (6 weekly) meetings with stakeholder partners to ensure that our communication and implementation proposals are a good fit with the various sectors of the Noosa community (residents, businesses, tourism, community groups).

In addition, It is the clear intention of ZEN to build partnership collaboration with Energex, Noosa Council, state government, universities and external funding bodies such as ARENA.

Criteria 3 (Weighting: 20%)

Significant co-investment (cash or in-kind) from project partners.

The ZEN-e Working Group consists of key industry and community representatives, who have in the last 12 months contacted communities and institutions across Australia who are on a similar trajectory. This significant in-kind investment has enabled ZEN Inc. to identify the most effective and efficient actions to arrive at the pathways for achieving zero electricity emissions.

During the proposed 12 months of this project, it is anticipated that volunteer project officers will be contributing a minimum of 1040 hours (average 20 hours per week by 52 weeks). This time will reflect the collaboration with the coordinator which will be required on a regular basis.

There will also be significant in-kind co-investment from the project partners, through their

oversight of the project and knowledge of local circumstances. . As knowledge develops of the return on investment to be achieved by installation of solar PV, solar farms and other technology, it is projected that there will be significant co-investment by individuals, community groups and businesses.

We also anticipate that rigorous modelling leading to the pathways recommended by ITP Renewables in Module 1 will enable ZEN Inc. to leverage external funding from grants and university research funding.

Criteria 4 (Weighting: 20%)

Evidence of strong potential for engagement with broader Noosa region and community.

The initial formation of Zero Emissions Noosa in 2016 was established via a Memorandum of Understanding signed by 14 organisations (including Noosa Council, NBRF and two universities) wherein signatories committed, to the best of their ability, to the goal of zero emissions by 2026.

ZEN has developed a strong and respectful relationship with these key economic, education, community and environment organisations across the Noosa shire. These links will enable us to communicate with a broad cross section of the Noosa community.

We have already commenced engagement with our local community, including two workshops on transport innovation, a scheduled community engagement workshop on 23 September and a scheduled workshop with business in late October. From this we can definitely say there is an appetite for energy investment and innovation, and for maintaining Noosa's deserved UNESCO Biosphere recognition for sustainable development.

In addition, we have also developed links with the solar installer industry, and know of several local examples of rooftop PV installations in the business community which we can document as case studies to engage with businesses, particularly in the industrial estates.

Furthermore, we believe we can engage with not-for-profit groups with buildings (sports clubs, churches, community groups) to assist them with solar PV installation. We also know that Lions, Rotary and Zonta have powerful international commitments on climate change, and that our rural fire brigades are deeply concerned about bushfire risk from more intense hot weather. Further, the Public Health Association, the AMA and agricultural groups also share concerns about climate change impacts.

We believe our focus on local solutions and engagement will resonate with all these groups and we will actively engage with them.