

# ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA

Zero Emissions Noosa Incorporated

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Incorporation No: IA57064

ABN: 74862487515

ACNC Registered Charity

Registered Business Name: Zero Emissions Noosa

# ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA Inc ANNUAL REPORT

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# 1. Chair's Remarks

ZEN Inc. is a regional influencer and change agent for the Noosa Community. In 2022, we made significant progress with projects and our push to engage our Noosa Shire community to work towards the zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2026 target, following a staged return from COVID 19. Our projects and activities are outlined in this Annual Report.

While we all want to see more and faster action on climate change in Australia and across the world, by working to reduce emissions in our own local Government area, we are "thinking globally and acting locally". ZEN Inc's work is raising awareness and advocating for emissions reduction, while undertaking projects in both stationary energy and sustainable transport. These are practical actions to reduce emissions in our own Noosa Shire community. We are "doing our bit for the planet", while demonstrating how "people can live in the (Noosa) Biosphere", to leave a better place for future generations.

2022 brought record breaking rains across Eastern Australia. The costs of climate change continued to rise in 2022, with Queensland bearing an estimated \$7.7 billion cost in social, financial and economic impacts because of record-breaking rainfall and floods in February and March (Climate Council of Australia <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/the-great-deluge-australias-new-era-of-unnatural-disasters/>). As the science says, climate change is here and we are living with it now. It is not something that will happen in the future. the climate emergency is here now. ZEN Inc. is dealing with it at the local level.

ZEN Inc. is again very appreciative of funding from Noosa Council, the Queensland Government and Sandy Bolton MP, and the sponsors of our EV Expo to assist our work. We are also fortunate to have a collaborative working relationship with a number of key stakeholders, especially Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa and Noosa Junction Assoc. We thank them all for their support.

We are extremely fortunate to have some very knowledgeable and talented people as part of our dedicated ZEN Inc. team. We particularly thank our volunteer Board members (listed below), our volunteer project team and activity members (ZEN E & ZENTAG) and our Community Engagement Officer, Meghan Halverson, for their dedication and support. Your knowledge and skills have helped ZEN Inc's work in 2022 are very much appreciated. The current ZEN Inc. Board is listed below. We will continue to drive change by reducing emissions within the Noosa Biosphere for the benefit of everyone.

**Anne Kennedy, Chair, Zero Emissions Noosa Inc. 2022**



Chair:  
Anne Kennedy



Secretary:  
Thorsten Kels



Treasurer:  
Lyn Allen



Accounts:  
Joe Shlegeris

## Board members:



Dr. Carina Anderson



Mat Colefax



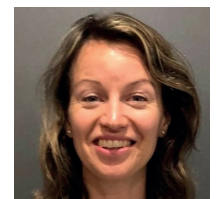
Angela Cooney



Roshan Dharmasena



Gabriele Sartori



Jannina Sourander



Brian Hoepper

## Community Engagement



Meghan Halverson

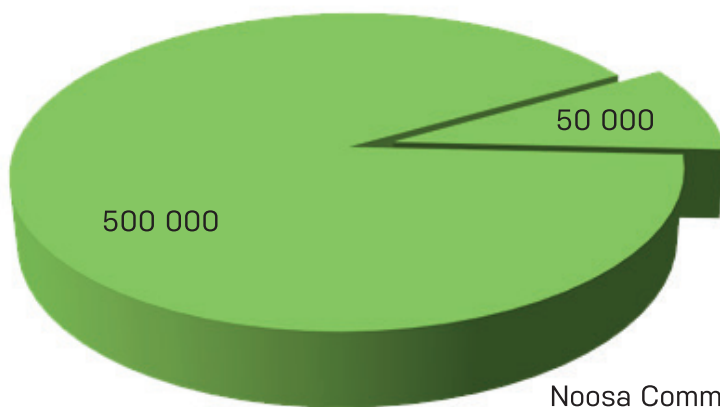
## 2. The Size of the Task

### a. For Council and the Noosa Community

Yes, net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2026 is an aspirational target! However, there is nothing like an aspirational target to spur people into action.

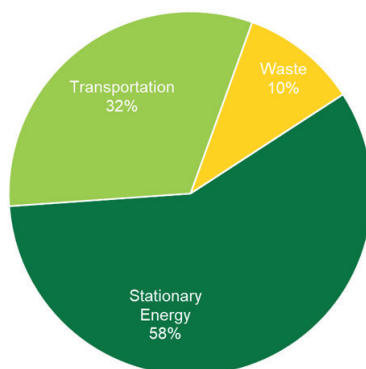
Noosa Council set the target in 2016 as part of its emissions reduction policy for the Noosa Biosphere. It has subsequently reduced its emissions from its own operations, and is now focusing on reducing emissions in the broader community. ZEN Inc, as a group of volunteers, is focussed on reducing the 450,000 tonnes of CO2 tonnes of community emissions across the Noosa Biosphere.

#### Noosa Community and Council CO2e tonnes



Noosa Community 500 000 CO2e tonnes & Noosa Council 50 000 CO2e tonnes

Where are we in getting to this target? We are in the process of working this out, so watch this space!



100% Renewables Dec. 22 Noosa Community Footprint

ZEN Inc. focusses on reducing community emissions in the residential, business and transport sectors (see below).

To reach the net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2026:

**Greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere = Greenhouse gas emissions out of atmosphere** to keep the CO2 scales in balance



## b. Noosa's Electricity from Renewable Sources Statistics

ZEN Inc. research has revealed that Noosa residents and businesses are demonstrating significant progress in reductions in grid electricity consumption and uptake by business of rooftop solar.

An estimated \$77M leaves the shire in electricity costs per year, of which about \$27M is attributable to business grid consumption.

Residents and businesses in Noosa Shire are still adding, on average, just under 1MW per month of solar installation in Noosa Shire as shown in this info graphic for Dec., 2022.

However, to reach the net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2026, in addition to all the local solar, we still need to be able to claim emissions reduction credit from other initiatives. a very big solar or wind farm!



From ZEN Inc's data analysis. it is evident that solar uptake in the hinterland area of Noosa Shire is considerably greater than in the coastal part of the Shire. One of the reasons for this is the high concentration of strata title units for holiday and residential accommodation and businesses using strata title premises in the coastal areas of Noosa Shire.

With only 30% of our electricity use from renewables, we need greater solar PV uptake by households and businesses, to reach the target of zero net greenhouse gases by 2026.

## 3. Partnerships and Links with Other Organisations

We are grateful to the many organisations which have supported ZEN Inc. and shared our goals and vision in 2022. We want to acknowledge Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa and Noosa Junction Association and other organisations for their continuing support and assistance to ZEN Inc.

### a. Noosa Council

ZEN Inc. welcomes the collaborative working relationship it has with Council and & good channels of communication with Noosa councillors, including:

- Having Noosa Council once again as a ZEN Inc. 2022 Noosa EV Expo partner providing logistical and traffic management support, with 5,000 participants and 62 exhibitors
- Funding of ZEN Inc. projects (See Grants Section)
- Having two representatives on the Climate Change Response Plan Community Reference Group – Anne Kennedy and Dr Carina Anderson, to work with other community groups and assist in the implementation of this plan.

We particularly want to acknowledge the extraordinary collaboration from Anne Nolan, Council's Carbon Reduction Officer, Sally Jensen, Climate Education Officer, Renee Black, Project Officer – Go Noosa Transport, Lance Pearce, Project Officer Capital Works and Adam Britton Project Manager and Jordan Vance, Economic Development Adviser.



Annie Nolan, NSC; Anne Kennedy ZEN Inc.; Sally Jensen, NSC, Meghan Halverson, ZEN Inc. & Jordan Vance, NSC



Adam Britten, Jo Ferris & Renee Black, Noosa Council

**b. Tourism Noosa (TN)**

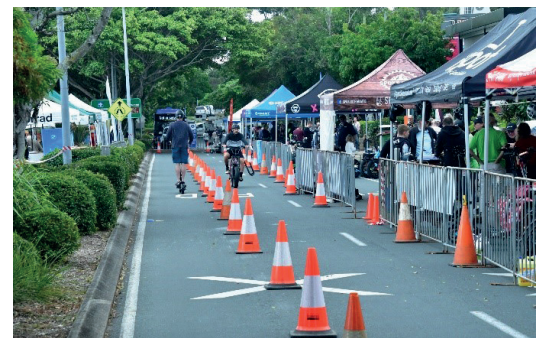
Since its inception, ZEN Inc. has enjoyed a close and collaborative relationship with Tourism Noosa. ZEN Inc. applauds the work that Tourism Noosa does to keep our Biosphere clean and green. We really appreciate Tourism Noosa's assistance with our event promotion and support letters for our funding applications. Juanita Bloomfield-Terry, TN's Head of Tourism Sustainability and Program Design is an ex-officio member of our ZEN Inc. Board.



Anne Kennedy & Melanie Anderson, CEO, Tourism Noosa

**c. Noosa Junction Association**

ZEN Inc's partnership with the Noosa Junction Association in 2022 saw the ZEN Inc. EV Expo staged in Sunshine Beach Road, with shops and cafes in Noosa Junction opening for trading during the Sunday Expo. We gratefully acknowledge the support from Dave Langdon, President of NJA and Judi Lalor whose support and expertise in the planning and promotion of the event was greatly appreciated.



**d. NBRF & NPA & our MOU organisations**

ZEN Inc. is very grateful to both NBRF & NPA for the use of their facilities for our meetings and workshops in 2022.

We really appreciate the support for ZEN Inc's work from a number of organisations and look forward to continuing and growing our association with you all.



**e. National Community Scale Battery Working Group (CSBWG)**

ZEN Inc. is represented on this group by Geoff Acton. It is an informal collaboration of staff from environmental and energy user groups, research institutions, community energy groups, retailers and governments around Australia advocating for an independent public authority to support and oversee the roll-out of community scale batteries and other community energy projects (e.g. a community energy office within ARENA). It has provided advice on community scale batteries for the "Power to the People" policy.

**f. Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF)**

YEF are pioneers in the community battery space in Australia at local govt level. They have chosen to work with ZEN Inc. as the only other entity that they work with nation-wide due to the standard of work that ZEN Inc. has done in the community battery space. YEF has described ZEN Inc's work as very professional.

ZEN Inc. is extremely grateful for the very significant assistance that it has received from YEF for our work in advancing the possibility of having Community Batteries in Noosa.



Anne Kennedy visiting YEF with Tim, Lachlan, Dean, & Chris

**g. C4Ce – Coalition for Community Energy**

C4Ce is a national body that is the umbrella group for communities working on community energy projects & initiatives.

Heather Smith, the National Chair is a member of the ZEN Inc. Community Battery Steering Committee working on the Community Battery Roadmap/Business Case project for Noosa currently being done with a Qld. Government grant.



**h. Climate Action Network Aust. (CANA)**

ZEN Inc. has recently joined this diverse network, with distributed leadership, that links people and organisations working toward their vision of a fair and sustainable Australia free of climate pollution, where people and nature are protected from dangerous climate change.

The network will support the setting and achievement of shared goals and is the underlying infrastructure that supports its members to work together.

There will be the opportunity to link, liaise & work collaboratively with like-minded members/groups on initiatives of mutual benefit.

**i. Zero Emissions Brisbane (ZEB)**

Members of this group have been part of the work that ZEN Inc. is doing on Environmental Upgrade Agreements over the last 3 years. Vikki McLeod is the Chair of ZEB.



## 4. Strategic Planning

ZEN Inc's main focus is on reducing emissions from energy used by households and businesses and emissions from fossil fuel transport.

Our annual strategic planning review process helps us to keep on track with pinpointing projects that will have the biggest impact on reducing Noosa's community emissions. In 2022, we reviewed our strategic plan and reworked Action Plans for our two Working groups – ZEN E (Energy) and ZENTAG (Transport), as well as reviewing our internal ZEN Inc. Operations Plan in a mix of in person and on line formats. The One Page Strategic Plan is attached as Appendix A.

### i. Working groups - ZENe (Electricity) Projects

ZENe, our electricity Working Group, saw a new face as Chair in 2022 with Thorsten Kels, long time ZEN Inc. Board member, stepping into this role. Our thanks to Roman Roudonikis who had convened the group for the previous year



ZENe has been the creative force behind many of the ZEN Inc. electricity emission reduction initiatives. Using zoom extensively in 2022, it worked on the projects outlined below.

In addition to ZENe group projects, ZEN e group members also keep up to date with briefings and research on issues affecting businesses and households in Noosa Shire e.g. export constraints of solar to the grid, grid instability, as well as the technology and opportunities for possible solutions e.g. through community batteries, environmental upgrade agreements and discussions with key stakeholders like Energex.

### a. Community Battery/ies

A key challenge in achieving net zero in Noosa by 2026 is the integration of higher levels of roof top solar into the grid. With close to 50% of Noosa Shire properties having rooftop solar, some areas within the Noosa Shire that generate more solar power at certain times of the day than can be fed back into the grid, this excess, if stored used locally. Reduces the amount of electricity in peak times when the sun is not shining, that needs to be purchased from fossil fuel power generators and so reduces our community's emissions. For example, Cooran's Energex sub-station is now solar positive in the middle of the day for 260 days per year, i.e. people in the at area generate more solar than they use at home or in their business. This has also been evident in some Noosa Shire industrial estates where businesses with large solar systems (100 Kws) are not able to export their excess solar to the grid. Community batteries are an emerging solution to such capacity constraints.



YEF Battery in Nth. Fitzroy, Vic. - what a Noosa Community Battery could look like

Following ZEN Inc's 2021 report "Facilitating Community Understanding of Electricity Battery Options for Noosa Shire", further follow up work was undertaken by the Community Battery Working Group Chris Wallin, Yarra Energy Foundation; Steve Fairless, Power Oracle; Annie Nolan, Noosa Council; Heather Smith, Changing Weather; Sajeeb Saha, USC; Anne Kennedy, ZEN Inc. and ably led by Vivien Griffin and Geoff Acton, on the emerging issues, potential solutions and next steps for a Battery Energy Storage System(s) located locally on the Energex network within the Noosa Shire. This work included ongoing discussions with Energex, and businesses with export constraints, so other businesses and households are not disincentivised from installing solar PV.

This work was heavily informed by a close working relationship with Yarra Energy Foundation in Victoria that was built over time by ZEN Inc's Geoff Acton. Yarra Energy Foundation are the front runners in the development and installation of community batteries and chose ZEN Inc., from all the requests they receive nationally, to work with due to the level of professionalism demonstrated in the work ZEN Inc. had done on this initiative.



In mid-2022, ZEN Inc. was successful in being awarded a Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action Grant from the Department of Environment and Science put together by Gabriele Sartori, Geoff Acton and Anne Kennedy, to develop a Business Plan - Network of Community Batteries in Noosa LGA. This plan will then be able to be used by other Councils that want to go on the journey to investigate if a community battery is suitable for their local government area. ZEN Inc. envisages that a network of 100 – 200 community batteries in Noosa Shire will assist in working towards the Net Zero Emissions target by 2026.

In late 2022, the Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change Chris Bowen MP, announced that there would be a community battery located in Noosaville.

Since then, a huge amount of work has been undertaken on community batteries, by our project leaders, Geoff Acton and Vivien Griffin, and the Working Group in close collaboration with Noosa Council. ZEN Inc. is very appreciative of and offers a huge vote of thanks for the work on this project to Noosa Council, particularly Annie Nolan, Carbon Reduction Officer and Noosa Councillors.

Watch this space for further developments and community consultation in 2023.

### b. Solar For Strata

Vivien Griffin as our project leader for Stage 1 of this project, suggests the reasons that solar PV uptake is lowest in the Noosa Heads and Noosaville due to the high concentration of strata title units. Substantiated evidence tells us that strata units lag behind other sectors in uptake of rooftop solar. Noosa Shire aerial mapping indicates that only 14% of these properties have solar, compared to 45% of residential properties.

Following the ZEN Inc. Solar Forum in 2021, with the support of NBRF, Tourism Noosa and Team Body Corporate, ZEN Inc. was successful in getting Council grant funding for Stage 1 of this project - Feasibility Studies (February-July 2022) for an experienced consultant, Ian Wright of the Solar Revenue Company, who was contracted by ZEN Inc. to carry out initial Solar for Strata Feasibility. Ian worked with 8 body corporates to provide initial feasibility studies.

The project was designed to provide the foundation for skills development resources for body corporates (BCs) and body corporate managers (BCMs), both within Noosa and potentially state-wide, outlining the components and options of the journey to solar. The focus was on delivering a revenue-positive solution for strata properties. The three-stages ZEN Inc. has proposed for this project (subject to future resourcing) was:

Stage 1: A practical hands-on journey with 8 strata properties (this project)

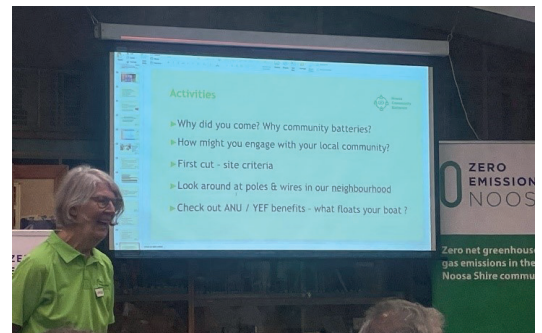
Stage 2: Development of information resources for BCs and BCMs and

Stage 3: Development of an accredited professional development unit for BCs and BCMs.

The first stage, titled "Growing the Uptake of Solar on Noosa Strata Properties", focussed on local partnerships to develop a trusted and practical knowledge-base for the future, based on partnerships with a diverse group of bodies corporate. There is a new model for solar, particularly relevant to strata organisations, which not only provides environmental returns (reduced carbon emissions) but also economic returns (revenue).



Geoff Acton, Meghan Halverson, Anne Kennedy & (now) Minister Chris Bowen MP



Vivien Griffin @ Community Battery Forum



Body Corporate Managers and Committee Members

The project's eventual goal is to assist and encourage strata or bodies corporate (BC) schemes to install solar at their properties, to help achieve zero net emissions (ideally by 2026, in line with Council objectives); and to share the learnings from their journeys for the benefit of others in the strata community.

ZEN Inc. is grateful for the support of Noosa Council in funding Stage 1 of this project.



Noosa Lakes Resort – an example of a strata complex taking advantage of the financial benefits from solar

### c. Peregrine Energy Hub Investigative Project

The Peregrine Beach Energy Hub project is working on the creation of an "energy hub" at the Rufous Street precinct and beyond at Peregrine Beach. The project, working in conjunction with Council, has assisted in increasing solar capacity (at the former community house (now Firetech Building) and the new community house), complemented by the establishment of battery storage at the Peregrine Beach Community House (PBCH) and Digital Hub.



Rufous St Precinct – part of the proposed Peregrine Energy Hub

This project aims to "showcase" the "Smart Biosphere" to the Noosa community and other key stakeholders e.g. the State Government, demonstrating the use of community facilities to build a resilient and "future focused" community precinct incorporating advocacy and education components with seminars, presentations and EV trials, that took place at the former and community house in 2022.

### d. Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales State governments have all enacted legislation which enables local government to borrow from a third party to be able to facilitate loans to business, with loans attached to the property. This enables lower interest rates and lengthy repayment periods.

Following on from ZEN Inc's 2020 work advocating to the Queensland Government for legislation to enable them to operate in Queensland for both households and businesses. ZEN inc. was pleased to see EUA's for commercial properties included in the Qld. Government's Energy & Jobs Plan in 2022, ZEN Inc. continued to advocate for households to be able to access EUA's to assist them to reducing their energy bills. We worked closely with Noosa Council, who were led the advocacy to get the agreement of Councils across Qld. for households to be included at the LGAQ Conference in Oct. Many thanks again to Annie Nolan, Carbon Reduction Officer at Noosa Council and Noosa Councillors for their work on this issue. ZEN Inc. & Noosa Council are continuing to advocate for households to be included. leadership.

### e. Race to Zero

Race to Zero was a Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN) Inc. program jointly funded by the Noosa Council Environment Grant and the Department of Education. The program utilised the [www.solarschools.net](http://www.solarschools.net) platform (Zero Positive Schools) and the Planet Watch APP for IPAD to deliver Energy education through use of real time data.

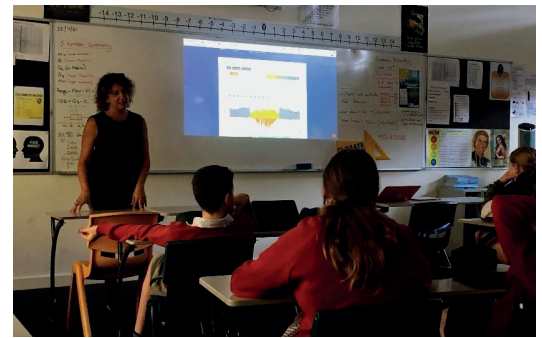
Installation of Watt Watchers meters on schools' main switch boards, allowed them to access their real time solar and energy consumption data for use in the curriculum. It furthered ZEN Inc's community engagement capacity by engaging students and young people in the zero emissions journey. For Queensland Government State Schools, the licensing and data warehousing component was met by the Department of Education. For Independent schools

participating, the licensing and data warehousing was sponsored by Zero Positive Schools.

Staff and student training was done by Noosa EE Hub Director, Dalia Mikail. While COVID 19 severely interrupted training in schools, and extended the program from 2020 to 2022 with two extensions, it was an important part of ZEN Inc's community engagement with young people.

Participating schools included:

- Federal State Primary School
- Noosaville State Primary School
- Tewantin State Primary School – site of program launch September 2019
- Sunshine Beach State Primary School
- Sunshine Beach State High School
- Noosa District State High School
- Kin Kin State Primary School
- St Andrews Anglican College
- St Teresa's Catholic College
- Good Shephard Lutheran College
- Cooroy State Primary School



Dalia Mikail, training students at St Theresa's College, Noosaville

The Noosa EE Hub is continuing to promote the program's use in schools. ZEN Inc. thanks Noosa Council for its funding to enable this work with our Shire's young people.

An additional project, that was not originally planned, was the ZEN Swappable ENDURO Challenge (which became ZENDURO) project with year 6 students at Sunshine Beach State High School (SBSS) John Fuller, another ZEN Inc. volunteer. (See under ZENTAG Projects).

**f. Data Gathering and Analysis**

Geoff Acton from the ZEN E Group gathers and analyses energy data for the Noosa Shire area and beyond. This data, provides the evidence base that ZEN Inc. uses to make informed decisions about the projects that we undertake and prioritise. We are indebted to Geoff Acton for his expertise and the many hours of volunteer time that he puts into doing this work.



Geoff Acton

## ii. Working group - ZENTAG (Transport)

Transport generates an estimated 33% of Noosa's community greenhouse gas emissions. The ZEN Inc. ZENTAG (Transport) Working Group, led by

Carina Anderson, works on raising public awareness and on projects for residents and visitors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise other environmental impacts through the use of sustainable transport, particularly e transport options. ZENTAG's main activity again in 2022 was the Noosa EV Expo.



Carina Anderson

### a. 2022 Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo

The Noosa EV Expo is a free community event which showcases emerging electric transport options, including buses, passenger vehicles, motorcycles, scooters, skateboards and bikes. The event's goal is to provide an interactive experience where patrons have the opportunity to undertake trial rides.

A number of exciting developments happened for the 2022 EV Expo. The closing of Sunshine Beach Rd in Noosa Junction, enabled a significantly larger event to take place, with an estimated attendance of 5,000 people, who came to see the 62 exhibitors with 12 different modes of EV Transport. Trial rides of e bikes and e scooters were popular again. The event was supported by a number of sponsors - Greenfleet, CLO Studios, Coastline BMW, Tourism Noosa, Bendigo Bank, SIXT, RACV/Nissan and Noosa District Landcare.

Comments from those who attended indicated that the Noosa Community and other visitors were keen to learn about sustainable modes of transport that reduce emissions, with:

- 70% coming to learn about EVs
- 18% to try EVs and
- 25% to help make a purchasing decision.
- 66% had not previously attended an EV-Expo
- More than 33% decided to buy at least one EV as a result of attending: 30% car, 13% bike & 10% scooter
- 44% will buy an E-car when the price comes down and/or when charging infrastructure improves.
- 63% live in Noosa Shire, 19% in the wider Sunshine Coast, 8% in SEQ. 10% were interstate or international visitors to Noosa.

Exhibitors were very happy with their participation with:

- Over 91% of exhibitors likely" or "very likely" to participate in our 2023 event
- Over 95% of respondents said the event targeted their customer group and
- 79% of commercial exhibitors indicated follow-up interest in their products/services.



ZEN Inc. really appreciates the wonderful partnership with both Noosa Council and the Noosa Junction Association. A huge vote of thanks goes to Vivien Griffin, EV Expo Coordinator, with her team of ZEN Inc. volunteers who worked tirelessly over a long period of time, to make the 4th EV Expo a huge success. We appreciated Noosa MP Sandy Bolton and Noosa Council's Deputy Mayor Frank Wilkie opening the event, as well as the large number of Noosa Councillors who attended & gave us very positive feedback.



A huge vote of thanks from ZEN Inc. to Noosa Council, Noosa Junction Association, NJA President Dave Langdon and to Judi Lalor for her support and expertise in the planning and promotion of the event. ZEN Inc. really appreciates the valued contribution by Council staff Renee Black, Lance Pearce, Adam Britten and again Annie Nolan who helped make the event a huge success.



### b. Zenduro

An additional project that grew out of the EV Expo, was the ZEN Swappable ENDURO Challenge (which became the ZENDURO) project with John Fuller, a ZEN Inc. volunteer, working with year 6 students at Sunshine Beach State High School (SBSS) and their teacher Hamish Black.



John Fuller, Hamish Black & SBSS Year 6 ZENDURO Students

This project from April to June, 2022 transferred knowledge about energy use into a practical application, using swappable batteries for E transport using Radio Controlled cars. It introduced students to the concept of swappable batteries as a power source for Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The Swappable Enduro engaged small teams of year 6 SBSS students, with RC [radio controlled] cars which were 1:14 scale, around a predetermined track, over 4 different endurance routes with stops to swap batteries and collect data about endurance and efficiency. This introduced them to trialling real world ideas and learning what worked and what the limitations were for these model EV's.



These learnings were embedded through class room learning and trials, with a demonstration to parents and ZEN Inc. representatives at the conclusion of the project. The demonstration of this project at the ZEN Inc. EV Expo on 19 June, 2022, was the project finale, with students explaining and demonstrating their project to Expo visitors.

## 5. Community Engagement

### a. Community Forums

2022 saw ZEN Inc. focus on much more engagement with the Noosa Shire community through Community Forums to help raise awareness and advocate for reducing Noosa's emissions using renewable energy and sustainable transport solutions. Meghan Halverson, our Community Engagement Officer coordinated forums across the Shire at libraries and community centres, on topics from How to Reduce my Power Bill to EV's – The How & Why of EV's, all orbited by ZEN Inc. volunteers. Our thanks to Tegan Collier from the Noosa Council Libraries for this opportunity.



Noosa Library Forum Vivien Griffin & Dalia Mikail  
Meghan Halverson

### b. Engagement with Noosa Shire Businesses

#### i. Helping businesses with export constraints & discussions with Energex (DOE's)

ZEN Inc's work in 2022 included consulting with businesses about their constraints on export of their excess solar energy to the electricity grid and providing information from Energex about a possible way to over come this



#### ii. Biz to Zero Forum - Reducing Energy Costs for Business

Following on from ZEN Inc's Business Forum in 2021, ZEN Inc. was speaker at the Noosa Council's inaugural Biz to Zero forum held at The J. business forum was to assist local businesses ready to take action on climate change, by reducing their emissions but didn't know where to start and those wanting clear ways to accelerate their progress towards net zero. Darren Kennan from Noosa Sun Motel and Amanda O'Bara, from Noosa Massage and Wellbeing both ZEN Inc. members spoke about their journey towards net zero. Thanks to Sally Jensen for Noosa Council for taking the lead on this important initiative.



Angie Cooney, & Anne Kennedy, ZEN Inc. & Darren Keenan, Noosa Sun Motel

### c. MOU's with Community Organisations

- i. ZEN Inc. has a number of MOU's with organisations across the Noosa Shire to work with them to assist in achieving the Noosa Council and ZEN Inc. target of net zero GHG emissions by 2026. ZEN Inc. was pleased to sign a new MOU with Peregrin Beach Community Association in 2022 to assist with ZEN Inc's Peregrin Energy Hub Project being led by John Hare.

### d. Media

#### i. Website/Facebook/YouTube Videos

Our website and Facebook pages have continued to be an important information resource during 2022.

A big thankyou to Geoff Acton, Duncan McQueen, Meghan Halverson & Pamela Barone whose work in maintaining a steady stream of information on Facebook and keeping our website working and informative. Thanks to Duncan McQueen for the hours that he puts in to filming our forums and editing and uploading them to informative snapshots for our socials.



Barry Cotterill PCBA Pres., Brian Hoepper, Anne Kennedy & Joe Shlegeris (ZEN Inc.) & John Hare

## ii. Print Media

In 2022, ZEN Inc. continued with our fortnightly Zero Emissions Noosa column in Noosa Today and regular columns in Your Local Lifestyle. Our thanks to Phil Jarrett for this ongoing collaboration. We see this as an important part of getting our message to the Noosa community, especially to those who are not frequent users of electronic media. 2022 articles in Noosa Today can be viewed here <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/zen-in-the-news>

Thanks to our Board member Angie Cooney for coordinating this in 2022.



Angela Cooney

## iii. Newsletter

A ZEN Inc. general newsletter and an EV Expo newsletter to members/supporters and the wider community and business was done on an "as needs" basis, advising them of ZEN Inc. and other relevant events or initiatives. Many thanks to both Meghan Halverson and Pamela Barone for assistance with both and Anne Kennedy for content for the general newsletter and Vivien Griffin for the EV Expo newsletter.

### e. Building Resilience for Bush Fire Affected Communities (Batteries)

Congratulations to USQ and Noosa Council, on winning the above federal grant that ZEN inc. was also a part of. This has resulted in batteries being installed at The J and Noosa Leisure Centre to assist the Noosa Community to have power at these Emergency Shelters in times of natural disasters



### f. USC Sustainability Day

Megan Halverson and Angie Cooney attended this day to fly the flag for ZEN Inc.

### g. Qld. Day Award

ZEN Inc. nominated our founder and inaugural Chairperson Vivien Griffin for a well-deserved Queensland Day Award for her contribution to not only ZEN Inc., but the Noosa Community over many years. Thanks for your energy and enthusiasm for your work with us at ZEN Inc.



Meghan & Angie @ USC



Vivien receiving her award from Sandy Bolton MP

### h. Advocacy

ZEN Inc's advocacy work continued in 2022. However, due to resource constraints, it was not possible to make written submissions as we have done in the past to all levels of government.

## 6. ZEN Inc. Sub-Committees

Thanks to Roshan Dharmasena for his calm and thoughtful guidance of the Governance & Operations team; Lyn Allen as Treasurer and source of very useful and helpful information on Finance & many things, and Joe Shlegeris for continuing to look after the ZEN Inc. accounts behind the scenes; and Angela Cooney, for her assistance with the Comms. & Advocacy team. Your support and contribution to ZEN Inc., often unseen, is much appreciated.

## 7. Finance

### a. Grants

Grants are a really important source of funds to enable ZEN Inc to continue its work. We particularly thank Noosa Council and the Queensland Government for the following grants:

Source	Amount	Description	Acquitted
Noosa Council	\$20,000 Pa (+GST)	Environment/Community Alliance grant (2012-2023) Community Engagement Officer for one day a week position	Still in progress till 30 June 2022
Noosa Council	\$8,000 (+GST)	Race to Zero project	Finished 30 June 2022 (due to COVID) & acquitted
Noosa Council	\$2,000 (+GST)	2022 Electric Vehicle Expo: Community Environment Project Round 15	Finished 30 June 2022 & acquitted
Noosa Council	\$7,500 p.a. (+GST)	2022 – 2025 Electric Vehicle Expo MOU	Year 1 finished 30 June 2022 acquitted. MOU revised by Council for 2023.
Noosa Council	\$20,500 (+GST)	Solar for Strata Stage 1 (Climate Change Grants)	Finished & acquitted after extension.
Noosa Council	\$10,000 (+ GST)	Solar for Strata Stage 2 (Climate Change Grants) Community, Environment and Climate Change Round 17 — PROJ1719	Extension till 31 May 2022
Sandy Bolton MP	\$7,500 (no GST)	Seeds of Change	In progress till 30 June 2023
Qld. Govt. Dept. of Environment & Science	\$49,100 (+GST)	Community Sustainability Action Grant	12 June 2023 (months after grant execution TBC)

### b. Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

One of ZEN Inc's goals for the last 2 years was to achieve tax deductible status for donations to our organisation after lodging our application with the Register of Environmental Organisations in 2020. Thanks to our Treasurer Lyn Allen and our Accounts person Joe Shlegeris, we were successful on 23 Sept.,2022 and now have a Public Fund Account set up for ZEN Inc. to receive tax deductible donations.



### c. ZEN Inc. ROI with Noosa Council

In 2022, ZEN Inc. volunteers donated 7,900 hours of in-kind time, for a total value of nearly \$350,000, based on the minimum \$44 per hour as recommended by Council for the value of volunteers' time for grant applications. This is a massive in kind donation and Social, Environmental & Economic ROI to Noosa Council and the Noosa community. Based on the amount of funding that Council invested in ZEN Inc. in 2022, this represents an ROI of 26.8.

This "Value adds" to the rate payer dollar and is a \$350,000 per annum saving to Council i.e. if ZEN Inc. didn't exist, the work ZEN Inc. does would cost Council \$350,000. Or to put it another way, ZEN Inc. has saved Council \$350,000 or more in 2022. If this work was outsourced, what would this work cost? The market value would be a lot higher than \$350,000.

ZEN Inc. also brought in \$83,240 additional contributions ZEN Inc. to the Noosa community in grants, sponsorships, in kind contributions. That is without costing in any of the work that that YEF has done with ZEN Inc. for example (it is very difficult to put a figure on the value of that work). If ZEN Inc. and Noosa Council are successful in a potential grant application for a community battery in 2023, the additional contributions figure goes up to \$583,240 as much of the work was done in 2022. The 2022 ZEN Inc. EV Expo alone also contributed \$893,000 to the Noosa economy at the time and since.

Not only is this a massive contribution to the Noosa community, but it enables Council to leverage massively from the volunteer work done by ZEN Inc., in addition to contributing to emissions reduction and climate change impact in the Noosa Shire community.

### d. ZEN Inc. Financial Statements

Appendix B outlines the ZEN Inc. financial verification statements as required by the Office of Fair Trading.

See Appendices next page.




# APPENDIX A ZEN Inc. One Page Strategic Plan

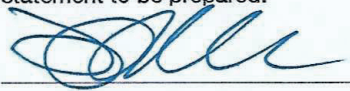



## STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision	Mission	Values
<p>Net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the Noosa region by 2026.</p>	<p>ZEN’s mission is to contribute to global action in addressing climate change (emissions reduction) in the Noosa region.</p>	Ethical
		Transparent
		Credible
		Independent (non-partisan)
<p><b>Goal 1: ZEN E Action Plan</b>  <b>To reduce business &amp; household stationary energy emissions in the Noosa region by 11% per annum to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2026.</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.To increase productive solar capacity &amp; storage by 12.5MW per year (5MW) in 2022.</li> <li>2.To reduce net grid consumption by 11% per year beyond the reductions achieved in No. 2 above.</li> <li>3. To lobby, advocate &amp; engage with government &amp; external organisations</li> <li>4. To provide information an evidence base &amp; successful models that can showcase how emissions can be reduced</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Goal 2: ZENTAG Action Plan</b>  <b>To reduce Noosa Region’s business &amp; household transport emissions in Noosa by 11% per annum to reach zero community emissions by 2026.</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To reduce transport greenhouse gas emissions using carbon offsets (planting trees and other carbon capture technologies)</li> <li>2. To advocate for &amp; implement forms of transport that reduce greenhouse gas emissions               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bike, e bike, e scooter sharing &amp;</li> <li>b. Electric Vehicle Expo.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. To bring forward the Walking &amp; Cycling strategy to connect missing links in pathways around the Shire</li> <li>4. To develop and promote on-demand public transport &amp; electric car sharing</li> <li>5. To advocate to Council for EV charger roll outs &amp; bringing forward the Walking &amp; Cycling strategy funded by paid car parking</li> <li>6. To advocate to Federal, State &amp; Local Government in conjunction with ZENTAG project needs</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Goal 3: ZEN Inc. Operations Plan</b>  <b>To strengthen ZEN Inc’s structure and resourcing to enable it to reduce Noosa Shire business &amp; household (stationary &amp; transport energy) emissions in Noosa by 11% per annum (to reach net zero community emissions by 2026).</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.To strengthen ZEN Inc’s governance to ensure that the organisation operates effectively internally &amp; externally to best serve the organisation in line with the development of its strategic priorities &amp; operation.</li> <li>2. To carry out the work of sub-committees as outlined in no. 1 above.</li> <li>3. To obtain a paid staff member for 5 days per week to assist with ZEN Inc’s operations &amp; coordination priority project of ZEN E &amp; ZEN Transport.</li> <li>4 a. To liaise closely with the installers/industry reps                b. To build trust in the industry and                c. To support the growth of the industry and job opportunities in the solar and related industries.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Key Performance Indicators</b></p>	<p>Impact on: Stationery Energy use</p>	<p>Transport Energy use</p>
	<p>Business Energy use Household energy use</p>	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions reduction</p>
	<p>Organisation’s strength Organisation’s reputation</p>	<p>Industry engagement Community engagement</p>

# APPENDIX B Verification of Financial Statements for Office of Fair Trading

<b>Zero Emissions Noosa, Inc.</b>		
ABN 74 862 487 515		
<b>balance sheet as at 31 December 2022</b>		
<b>assets</b>		
cash at Bendigo Bank, operating account	\$74,435.40	
GST refund due	\$430.00	
other assets realisable as cash	\$0.00	
	-----	
<b>total assets</b>		<b>\$74,865.40</b>
<b>liabilities</b>		
accounts payable:		
GST payable	\$0.00	
SGC payable	\$228.14	
other	\$0.00	
	-----	
<b>total liabilities</b>		<b>\$228.14</b>
		-----
<b>net assets</b>		<b>\$74,637.26</b>
<p>I have examined the association's financial records and state that the association's financial records show that the association has adequate bookkeeping processes in place to correctly record and explain transactions to enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.</p>		
		<p>31 January 2023</p>
<p><b>Joseph Shlegeris</b></p>		<p><b>date</b></p>

<b>Zero Emissions Noosa, Inc. cash flow for the year ended 31 December 2022</b>			
<i>all figures include GST</i>			
<b>opening cash balance, operating account, 31 December 2021</b>			<b>\$31,752.69</b>
<b>sources of cash:</b>			
interest	\$224.60		
grants	\$115,950.00		
member fees	\$2,175.77		
donations	\$10,548.28		
exhibitor fees	\$0.00		
GST refunds	\$102.00		
<b>total cash sources:</b>		<b>\$129,000.65</b>	
<b>uses of cash:</b>			
consultant fees	\$0.00		
transfer to public fund account	\$546.48	<i>(deductible donation paid to wrong account)</i>	
projects: electricity	\$27,595.29		
projects: transport	\$15,502.97		
projects: other	\$80.00		
service fees	\$0.00		
admin expense	\$3,307.57		
staff wages	\$26,958.63		
staff SGC & other	\$2,613.00		
GST remitted	\$9,714.00		
<b>total cash uses:</b>		<b>\$86,317.94</b>	
<b>net cash flow</b>			<b>\$42,682.71</b>
<b>closing cash balance at 31 December 2022</b>			<b>\$74,435.40</b>
<p>I have examined the association's financial records and state that the association's financial records show that the association has adequate bookkeeping processes in place to correctly record and explain transactions to enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.</p>			
		<p>31 January 2023</p>	
Joseph Shlegeris		date	

<b>PUBLIC FUND ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>Zero Emissions Noosa, Inc. cash flow for the year ended 31 December 2022</b>			
opening cash balance, operating account, at 31 December 2021			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>sources of cash:</b>			
interest	\$0.00		
donations	\$1,039.32		
other	\$0.00		
	-----		
<b>total cash sources:</b>		<b>\$1,039.32</b>	
<b>uses of cash:</b>			
transfer to operating account	\$0.00		
other	\$0.00		
	-----		
<b>total cash uses:</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
		-----	
<b>net cash flow</b>			<b>\$1,039.32</b>
			-----
<b>PUBLIC FUND ACCOUNT closing cash balance at 31 December 2022</b>			<b>\$1,039.32</b>
<p>I have examined the association's financial records and state that the association's financial records show that the association has adequate bookkeeping processes in place to correctly record and explain transactions to enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.</p>			
		<p>31 January 2023</p>	
Joseph Shlegeris		date	