

Noosa Library Services, QLD



Cooroy Library grassy rooftop. Image credit: Phil Jackson courtesy of Noosa Library Services

Library Service Overview

(incorporated in 2017)

Noosa Library Services is a part of the Noosa Council, a local government area about 130 kilometres north of Brisbane, QLD. It is on the land of the Kabi Kabi / Gubbi Gubbi people. There are three branches in the library service including Cooroy Library & Digital Hub, the Noosaville Library, and their Mobile Library.

Policy on Environment and Sustainability

- Noosa Shire Council's new [Emission Reduction Policy \(2016\)](#). This policy paves the way for a zero-emissions target.
- Noosa Shire Council's [Environment and sustainable living policy \(2019\)](#).
- Noosa Shire Council's [Environment Levy Policy \(2020\)](#).
- Noosa Shire Council's [Zero Emissions Noosa strategy](#)

Program/initiative/infrastructure Summary

On 19 November 2015, Noosa Council adopted a set of Sustainability Principles to provide a common basis for increasing sustainability in Noosa. The principles have been identified to guide the development of the Noosa Council's strategy documents and prompt consideration of sustainability across all areas of Council business so that the environmental, economic and social elements of sustainability are considered interdependently. Noosa's Six Sustainability Principles are:

1. Resources are sustainably managed so that the lifestyle of the community is preserved without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (consistent with the United Nations 1987 report definition of sustainability).
2. Noosa's economy is prosperous, diverse and protective of its unique environment.
3. Noosa residents belong to a community that values its diversity, accessibility and affordability.
4. Noosa's community is inclusive, connected and resilient and encourages participation and information sharing.
5. Noosa's community benefits from quality places and programs that enhance wellbeing and support creative, active and healthy lifestyles.
6. Good governance is achieved through effective and efficient decision making, made in the interests of the community.

The Noosa Council is currently developing a set of sustainability indicators to regularly measure and report on the Council's and the community's progress towards sustainable best practice and to identify priority issues where attention is next needed. In addition to the two static library

branches and mobile library, Noosa Library Service has developed a partnership with the Queensland Government and the State Library of Queensland for the [Noosa Seed Library](#).

The program initiatives were publicised in the community through expos such as the Living Smart Solutions Expo which is an exposition for builders, renovators, businesses and households looking for sustainable products and services available locally. In addition, the library advertised its activities during the 'Celebration of the World Environment Day' and the 'Living Smart Glossies Awards' evening where local residents and businesses are recognised for their sustainability. The council's sustainability achievements include building design and land use, creating edible landscapes, transport initiatives, environment friendly business practices, resource management, the new category 'Greening the Arts' and a newly introduced Hall of Fame Award.

Further, the Cooroy library branch hosts an impressive array of green building features. Voted as one of the [six coolest libraries globally](#), the building is packed with cutting-edge technology and environmentally sustainable features, including a grass-covered earth roof that stabilises temperatures and reduces cooling and heating requirements. Climate control and internal comfort have been developed with a mixed-mode ventilation system. The library can operate as a naturally ventilated space, with operable louvers for cross ventilation, assisted by thermal mass of the below-ground walls and grassed roof. It can also operate with below floor displacement ventilation, which is assisted by pre-cooling of the external air through two large underground labyrinth concrete pipes. The environmentally sustainable design features a low-energy shell and a natural-light-filled interior featuring digital training and community rooms, a lounge, reading areas and a cafe that opens onto a large, covered verandah. An array of solar panels has been designed for the building to provide site-generated power to reduce power consumption and carbon footprint. Solar chimneys have also been integrated within the roof structure. Solar heating of hot water occurs using roof-mounted solar collector heat exchangers. High levels of diffused natural lighting have been provided to the building through glass walls and high windows. A 20,000 litre (5283 gallons) below ground rainwater harvesting tank is used to irrigate the landscape and toilet and urinal flushing within the library.

Seed Library

Noosa Seed Library is a joint initiative with Permaculture Noosa and the Cooroy Community Permaculture Garden with funding from the Queensland Government and the State Library of Queensland. Starting 'from the ground up' the Noosa Seed Library provides seeds to library members to borrow, plant, grow, harvest and return. While enjoying produce from the plants, members are also encouraged to complete the cycle by harvesting seeds from their plants to return to the library for others to borrow. Seeds are accessible at all library branches.

Educational Workshops

Noosa Library Service hosts a series of educational workshops (for both adults and children) and instructional videos for the community to provide both inspiration and education and facilitate deeper social connections among community members interested in gardening, food, and sustainability issues. These events provide the secondary benefit of establishing cross-visibility and awareness among various local groups that share comparable interests but that might not have been previously familiar with one another. The library has also hosted a series of Compost and Worm Farm Workshops, and an 'Ecoflicks Film Festival'.

Recycling Books

Giving used books a new lease of life, the Library is a place community members can take a book, leave a book and share a book through the recycling books program.