

Shingle Hut Creek Nature Refuge

The property Shingle Hut Creek is a 948 hectare property that includes a nature refuge over the majority of the property. A nature refuge provides for the protection of the natural values of the property while maintaining ownership and use by the owner. A perpetual agreement exists between the original landholder and the state government (Department of Environment and Resource Management, DERM).

A nature refuge is a protected area under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* which provides protection for the significant natural and cultural resources on the property as well as allowing for sustainable use of these resources. Shingle Hut Creek Nature Refuge was preserved in perpetuity to ensure that future generations can enjoy the beauty and serenity of this area.



Shingle Hut Creek

Benefits of the nature refuge:

- Allows for sustainable grazing.
- Provides opportunities for bush walking, bird watching, horse riding and other nature-based activities.
- Does not change public access to the property.
- Provides recognition of outstanding conservation values and property management.
- Provides access to advice from the network of DERM Nature Refuge Officers.
- Part of a network of over 350 nature refuges across the state.

...protection for the significant natural and cultural resources...

The nature refuge area includes a domestic zone and existing dwelling. All domestic activities are allowed for in this area. A small agricultural zone also exists and contains an assortment of fruit trees. Sustainable grazing is allowed on the nature refuge, including mustering using dogs and horses.

The nature refuge is located next to Main Range National Park and is dominated by ridgelines over 1000 metres high on either side of a valley. Shingle Hut Creek flows through the refuge, emanating from a 100m waterfall.

It provides habitat for a number of threatened animals including:

- golden-tipped bat;
- koala;
- large-eared pied bat; and
- glossy black-cockatoo.

The nature refuge is perfect for nature lovers to bush walk, bird watch and ride horses.

A 65 hectare area is excluded from the nature refuge agreement. It is a fenced paddock, which provides for many uses including keeping stock.

The vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo

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Allowed on the nature refuge:

- Bush walking, bird watching & other nature-based activities.
- Sustainable grazing.
- Horse-riding.
- Use of timber for replacing or building new fences.
- Use of timber for firewood (that has fallen naturally & does not contain a hollow).
- Use of horses & dogs for mustering purposes.
- Maintenance & construction of dwelling & supporting infrastructure.
- Use of agricultural zone to harvest & grow fruit from existing orchard.
- All general household may occur within the domestic zone.
- Planting non-native species (e.g. fruit & vegetable plants) within the domestic zone.
- Use of motorised vehicles for management purposes.

Inconsistent with the nature refuge:

- Subdivision.
- Use of motorised vehicles for commercial and recreational purposes (e.g. motorbikes & four wheel drives).
- Timber harvesting or vegetation removal (other than for replacement or construction of fences or for firewood).
- Planting of non-endemic (native to the area) plant species
- Keeping of cats, pigs, goats and non-native &/or caged birds
- Unsupervised horses.

For more information about nature refuges see the DERM's website www.derm.qld.gov.au/naturerefuge or call Hannah Venz, Senior Nature Refuge Officer on (07) 3202 0219.

