

DARK SKY SUNSHINE COAST

The hinterland has some of the darkest skies in South-East Queensland and may soon become the latest celestial hotspot, as the council considers a proposal for a Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

A dark sky is the natural occurrence of the night sky that is free from human-caused light pollution. Further reducing light pollution can deliver many benefits to the community including economic, health and wellbeing, emissions reduction and wildlife friendly habitat outcomes.

If approved, it would be the first reserve of its type on the east coast and only the second in Australia. The region would then join an exclusive list of Dark Sky Places, offering protection for its pristine night skies and a new drawcard for tourists passionate about stargazing.

The 873 square kilometre proposed reserve would be based around the Hinterland townships of Mapleton, Montville, Flaxton, Maleny, Witta and Conondale.

Thanks to minimal light pollution, these elevated hinterland areas offer incredible visibility which is perfect for spotting everything from constellations to shooting stars and even the shimmering arc of the Milky Way.

For those who have an interest in astronomy, there are 2 operating observatories in the hinterland:

Mapleton Observatory - offers some of the clearest views of the night sky in all of Queensland and thanks to its high-powered telescopes and expert astronomers, visitors can explore the mysteries of the universe, from the craters of the moon to distant galaxies far beyond our reach.

Maleny Observatory - it's a must visit if you want to see Saturn's rings or Jupiter's moons up close!

Dr Ken Wishaw, an astronomer and local champion of the Maleny Observatory, has long believed the hinterland's skies are among Australia's best. "It's one of the few places where the Milky Way is so bright, it casts a shadow," he says.

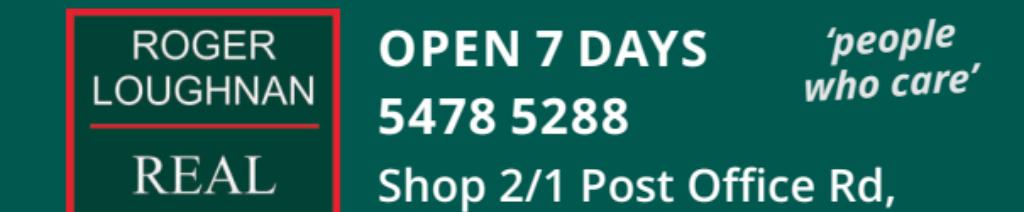
We are so lucky in the Hinterland to have these quality night skies, and we believe the proposed Dark Sky Reserve will have a very positive effect on visitor numbers and real estate values.

TESTIMONIAL EXCELLENT SERVICE

Roger and Monica are a very professional team as well as being unfailingly patient and supportive. We knew we were in safe hands and they delivered a great sale. Many thanks!

Review submitted by P & S O'Regan (Sellers) -

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