

Cassowaries

at
Mission Beach

Recovery or Extinction



Do we really care?

For over two decades there have been countless plans developed and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in the name of cassowary management and protection

And yet the known threats to their survival continue to increase



Mission Beach is a special place

It is often described as
"Mission Beach Magic"



It's a place where
the rainforest
grows right down
to the sea

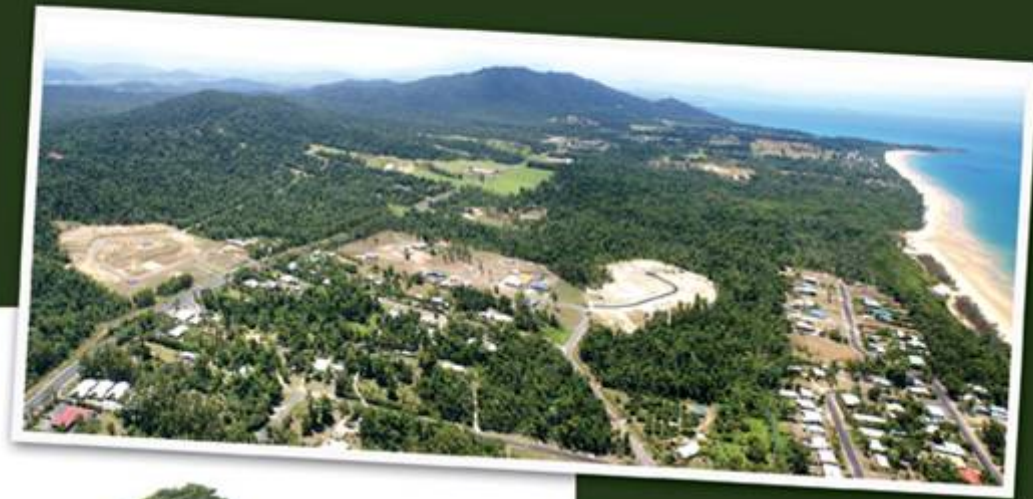


It isn't just the beach and
the offshore islands

And a place where you have the
best chance to see a cassowary
in the wild

Habitat loss

is the number one threat to the cassowary but legal clearing of their essential habitat continues



This is what is happening to some of the very rare rainforest/cassowary habitat at Mission Beach

The Cassowary 'Gunday'

has always played an important role in the culture of the Djiru traditional owners



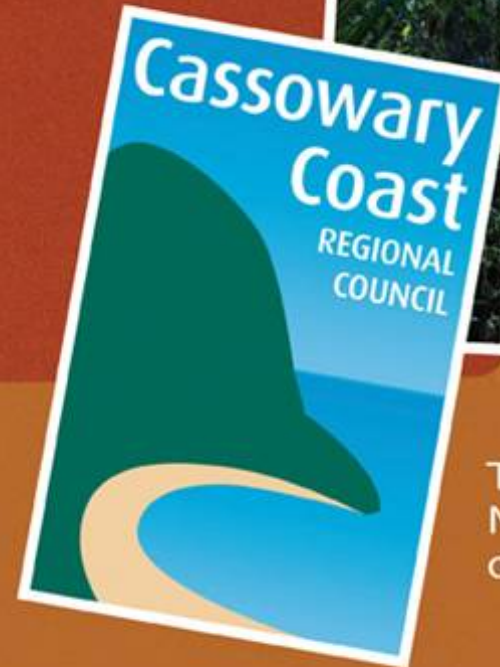
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90% of visitors who come to Mission Beach want to see a cassowary



photo courtesy Mission Beach



Tourism economy at Mission Beach relies on the natural values

It is the emblem of our shire

56 *known* cassowary road deaths in 15 years



All roads at Mission Beach travel through cassowary habitat

Development continues to be approved without proper consideration and planning for the increased traffic it brings

Speed limit 80kph

We can't even get the road speed reduced in known Cassowary crossing areas



photo courtesy Campbell Clarke

In the Mission Beach area these signs are the only protection cassowaries have for crossing roads to access their essential food

Dogs are a big threat

At Mission Beach dogs are allowed to roam and hunt in areas frequented by cassowaries



photo courtesy John Bahr/Upperbaumer

The local vet has said that dog attack may be responsible for the same amount of cassowary fatalities as vehicle strike

Developments continue to be approved in cassowary habitat without strong enough laws to ban, restrict or control dogs

Fences

Free movement now blocked by residential development



Fencing is being added to gain development approval



Cassowaries can sustain mortal injuries by coming into contact with fencing. They can become entangled, their beaks can be torn off and they have been known to break their backs running into fences while fleeing in fright.

Fencing is posing new and serious threats as cassowaries are entrapped and isolated from their essential food source

Development denied!

40% of the remaining cassowary habitat at Mission Beach is not protected

Key sites must be secured now. We need to protect essential cassowary habitat by any means it takes, whether it is by buy back, fair incentives to landholders, or adjusting planning schemes to introduce legislation on a local, state and federal level.



Councillors and community organisations support buyback and bans on clearing



The Federal Environment Minister found a development proposal to be '**clearly unacceptable**' under the EPBC Act because of the impact it would have on the endangered cassowary



Will we be the generation that hangs our head in shame knowing we didn't care enough and allowed the magnificent prehistoric cassowary to slide into extinction?



Photo courtesy EPA

*photos courtesy
Cornell Lab*

Or will we be the generation that acts **now** to introduce the necessary laws to manage the well known threats to this iconic species?

00-00-09
To, Name
Department

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my concern about the threats facing cassowaries at Mission Beach.

The cassowary is listed as endangered by both the State and Federal Governments and yet development continues to be approved that is encroaching into, destroying and fragmenting essential cassowary habitat

The increase of people is also increasing traffic and dogs, two of the major threats identified in the Cassowary Recovery Plan.

Fencing is now adding a serious new threat and is being introduced so that developments can be approved.

With more than 1000 blocks of land currently for sale at Mission Beach and more development applications being lodged, it is anticipated the above continued threatening processes will be unsustainable.

A development and traffic management strategy is urgently needed. We need a Local Area Plan to make sure the cassowary can continue to live in the wild at Mission Beach.

Please advise me what action you will take to manage the increasing threats to the cassowary at Mission Beach.

Yours Sincerely,
Your signature here
Your address here

Help save the cassowary at Mission Beach so that our children and our children's children can still call Mission Beach 'Magic'

How you can help!

C4 is in partnership with Rainforest Rescue to raise funds to protect cassowary habitat at Mission Beach. Bob Irwin is asking us all to help by donating to the '**Mission Beach Cassowary Care Project**'. Click onto www.rainforestrescue.org.au



We are asking the local, state, and federal governments to match our funds so please give generously.
www.rainforestrescue.org.au

Click on the link to email your concerns to one or all of the following;

Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter.Garrett.MP@aph.gov.au
Hon Kate Jones, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Hon Stirling Hinchcliffe, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, infrastructure@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Hon Craig Wallace, Minister for Main Roads, mainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au
CEO Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Innisfail@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au
Hon Paul Lucas, Deputy Premier, deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Hon Desley Boyle, Minister for Local Government, localgovernment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Senator Hon Jan McLucas, senator.mclucas@aph.gov.au
Bob Katter MP Kennedy, Bob.Katter.MP@aph.gov.au
Andrew Cripps MP Hinchinbrook, Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au

Your letters **will** make a difference

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