

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

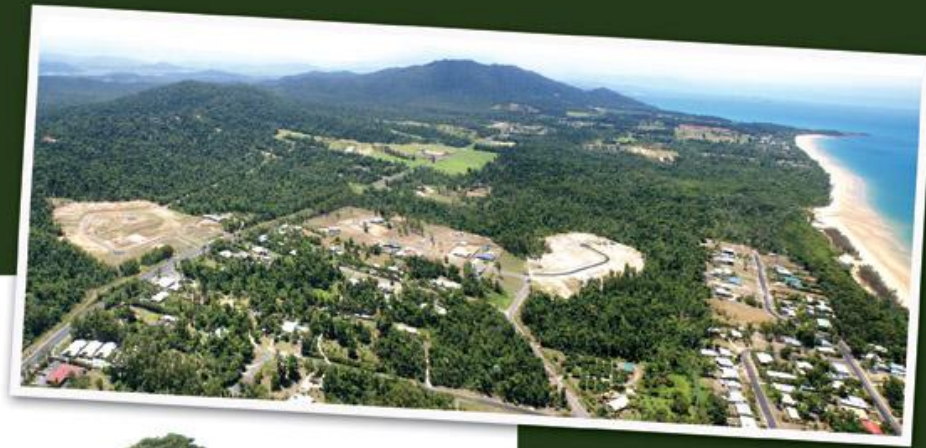


It isn't just the beach and
the offshore islands

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 'Gunduy'

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



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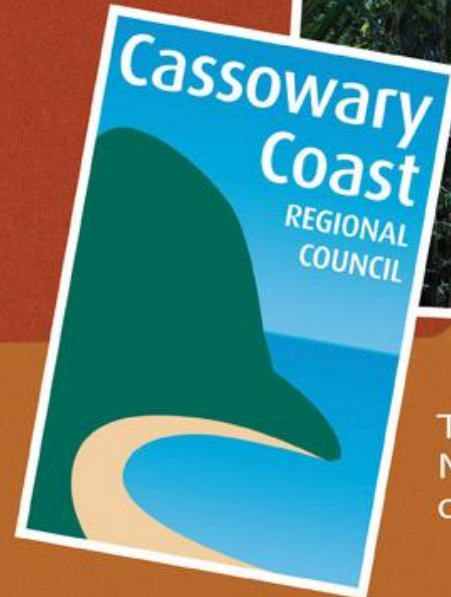
It is the emblem of our shire



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



photo courtesy Preston Clither



Tourism economy at
Mission Beach relies
on the natural values

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

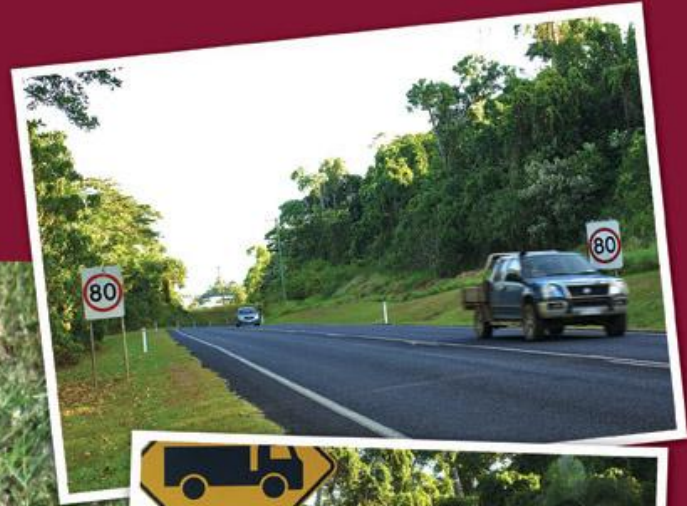


photo courtesy Campbell Clarke

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



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



photo courtesy John Deiter/upperbaumer

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



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 being added to gain development approval



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

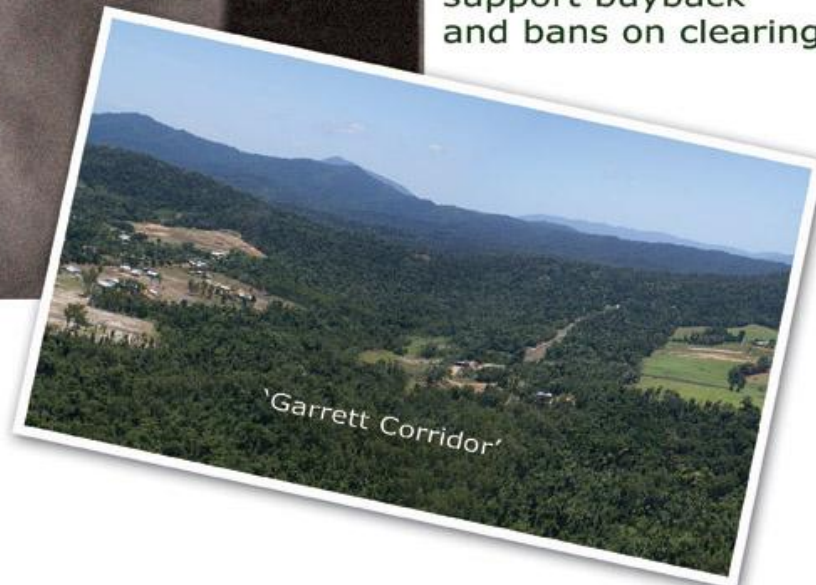
Development denied!

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?





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