



CAUTION URGED:A cassowary chick (similar to below) was killed near a sign warning motorists.

Warnings on endangered bird ignored

Brian Williams

TWO more endangered north Queensland cassowaries have died, each hit by cars.

An adult was killed at Mission Beach and a chick at the Daintree, north of Cairns, sparking fresh pleas from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers for drivers to slow down and be extra cautious on rainforest roads.

Senior ranger Tina Alderson said yesterday



the areas where both birds were killed were well signposted.

"The chick was found just beyond signage warning motorists of

cassowaries in the area," Ms Alderson said. "It weighed about 4kg and would have still been with its father."

Ms Alderson urged motorists to drive slowly in cassowary habitat.

Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation spokeswoman Liz Gallie said yesterday the death of the 4-year-old bird at Mission Beach was another case of a cassowary being hit by a vehicle and the driver not

stopping. Ms Gallie said that despite overwhelming evidence that vehicle strike was a major cause of cassowary deaths, traffic-producing developments continued to be approved without measures to slow vehicles.

She said local, state and federal legislation was allowing serious environmental harm to occur.

A 20-year-old hen also was killed at Mission Beach about a month ago.

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