

Slow down plea for cassowaries

WILDLIFE authorities are pleading with motorists to slow down, after an adult cassowary was killed by a car near Mission Beach yesterday.

It was the second cassowary fatality on Far Northern roads in the past fortnight, following the death of a chick near the Daintree recently.

In yesterday's incident, the cassowary was struck by a car on the Mission Beach-El Arish Rd about 7am.

"Motorists should be aware that wildlife is on the move, especially cassowaries," a Queensland Parks and Wildlife spokesman said.

"We do urge motorists to be aware of their surroundings."

Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation Group spokeswoman Liz Gallie criticised motorists for driving too fast.

She said more also should be done to alert motorists if cassowaries were about and branded small wildlife signs by the roads as "inadequate".

"I think more needs to be made of each (cassowary) death," she said.

"This is an endangered species and we have just lost another one of an important native population."