



**CAPTURED:** This endangered spotted quoll was accidentally trapped by Bingil Bay resident Liz Gallie. It is the first recorded sighting of the Northern quoll in the region. (Photo supplied by Liz Gallie)

## Quoll found at Mission Beach

An endangered species was discovered this week at Mission Beach.

The Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), listed as endangered under national environment law, had not previously been recorded along the coast between Ingham and Cairns.

However this week a Mission Beach resident accidentally caught the quoll in a household trap set for a rat.

A spokesperson from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts said the discovery was significant especially as it was discovered in low-lying rainforest near the beach.

"Until now, there have been no known records along this part of the coast," the spokesperson said.

"In Queensland, quolls were thought to only occupy high relief rocky habitats with the nearest known location being west of Cairns, or just north of Ingham.

"Receiving new information such as

this is important and helps the department make better decisions that will help protect the health and diversity of the environment for the benefit of future generations."

Liz Gallie who accidentally caught the quoll at her home at Bingil Bay said this new discovery shows there is still so much to be learnt from the ecosystems of Mission Beach.

"Despite being recognised for many years for its biodiversity significance, there is still no thorough study of the fauna of Mission Beach," Ms Gallie said.

"Additional work on the area's flora is also certainly warranted.

"And we need greater understanding of the unique rainforest wildlife corridor from Mission Beach to the southern Atherton Tablelands.

"It is very important that we know what we might be losing before any other areas are cleared or fragmented."