

# Cassowaries being helped, says Minister

THE State Government has taken important steps to protect the endangered Mission Beach cassowaries from being killed on the road, says Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace.

He was reacting to criticism from the Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) following the death of a male cassowary, leaving two chicks orphaned.

C4 spokeswoman Liz Gallie said the speed limit should be lowered throughout the township.

Mr Wallace said a trial to help protect the cassowary was underway in Mission Beach.

"Crews have just finished installing signage, rumble strips and new linemarking on the Tully/Mission Beach Road between Mission Circle and Oceanview Drive as part of a 12 month trial that aims to reduce the number of cassowary deaths on our roads," he said.

"The trial was developed through departmental workshops with Cassowary Coast Regional Council, State and Federal government departments, business, conservation and

community groups including members of C4 and Mission Beach Community Association. If successful, it could be rolled out into other cassowary hot spots in the far north.

"The new road features are designed for drivers to help them navigate this stretch of road," he said. "We need motorists and the wider community to help us make this trial a success."

Mr Wallace said motorists travelling from the west into Mission Beach should also note that the speed limit on the El Arish/Mission Beach Road had been reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h to further bolster cassowary protection efforts.

"We're doing everything we can to help protect cassowaries on the Cassowary Coast. We don't want to lose any more. They're too precious," he said.

Members of the community who would like to comment on the trial are encouraged to contact the department on 4040 6339, email [cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au) or write to Reply Paid Box 6185, Cairns 4870.