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# Cassowary habitat guidelines to aid developers

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**New development guidelines for protecting cassowary habitat in far north Queensland could give developers more certainty about their projects.**

MAP: [Cairns 4870](#)

The voluntary guidelines have been developed with advice from cassowary experts and cover infrastructure, buildings and roads in the Wet Tropics region.

Federal Environment Department spokesman Steve Mercer says developments such as roads can stop the big birds from reaching foraging areas and increase the chances of road kills.

He says compliance with the guidelines will help developers avoid Federal Government intervention in projects.

"If developments can be designed and implemented consistent with what's in the guidelines then we think that's a win for the cassowary, for the developers and for us in that we won't need to apply the heavy stick in terms of assessing and modifying development," Mr Mercer said.

"If developments are consistent with principles in the guidelines then it's less likely that approval is going to be needed from the federal Environment Department under the national environmental law."

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