

10 September 2024

Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads honoured at the 20th Cassowary Awards

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has received the prestigious Industry Excellence Award at the 20th Cassowary Awards for their efforts in protecting the endangered Southern Cassowary.
- TMR's Cassowary Conservation Management Plan and innovations like the LAARMA system set new standards in using technology to safeguard wildlife and the community.
- In 2024, TMR built a southbound overtaking lane and fauna crossing at Smiths Gap, planting cassowary-friendly vegetation in partnership with Terrain.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has been honoured with the prestigious Industry Excellence Award at the 20th Cassowary Awards, hosted by the Wet Tropics Management Authority, for outstanding contribution to the protection of the endangered Southern Cassowary.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority's Cassowary Awards recognise the community contributions to World Heritage management, celebrating the efforts of organisations and individuals who participate in conserving, protecting and raising awareness about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Since 2015, TMR has built a strong partnership with the Cassowary Recovery Team (CRT), playing a key role in cassowary conservation on state-controlled roads.

The implementation of the Cassowary Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) and groundbreaking initiatives, such as the Large Animal Activated Roadside Monitoring and Alert (LAARMA) system, has set new standards by using cutting-edge technology to protect both wildlife and the community.

TMR's successful public awareness campaign, complemented by strategic wildlife signage and billboards, reached over a million people in just seven weeks. This achievement has helped raise awareness about cassowary conservation on a broad scale.

The Fauna Sensitive Transport Infrastructure Delivery Manual, developed by TMR, is further enhancing conservation outcomes through road designs that incorporate fauna-sensitive methodologies and best practices.

In March 2024, TMR completed construction of a southbound overtaking lane and fauna crossing at Smiths Gap, a key movement corridor for cassowaries.

In August 2024, TMR, in collaboration with Terrain, completed the planting of cassowary-friendly vegetation on the overpass, further supporting the species' habitat.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Main Roads Regional Director North Queensland Ross Hodgman:



“This award is a testament to the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ dedication to safeguarding the Wet Tropics, and specifically our proactive efforts in conserving the majestic Southern Cassowary.

"Our work not only highlights the intricate balance between infrastructure development and environmental stewardship but also underscores the power of collaborative community efforts.

“Through our partnership with the community and industry experts, TMR has taken significant strides to reduce the number of animal-vehicle collisions, particularly with cassowaries.

“TMR is honoured to accept the Industry Excellence Award and we remain dedicated to the continual advancement of safe and sustainable transport solutions throughout North Queensland.”

Further information:

The Cassowary Conservation Management Plan can be downloaded from the TMR webpage [Fauna management \(Department of Transport and Main Roads\) \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/fauna-management)

ENDS

Link to visual assets: [HERE](#)

Password: Cassowary

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