

# Pay rise move defeated 4-3

The Department of Transport and Main Roads erected 60km/h signs at either end of the bridge on Wednesday following an inspection of the structure.

A Transport and Main Roads spokeswoman said the 60km/h signs were installed to reduce the impact on loadings on the bridge, pending further site investigations.

"The time frame for this speed zone is dependent on the outcome of the site investigation and what maintenance works are required," she said.

"Interim works will take place with a long term maintenance solution to be decided following the site investigation. Speed restrictions are to remain in place until further notice."

## Rings found

POLICE are looking for the owners of two distinctive rings.

The rings were part of a stash of stolen property recently found by police. East Innisfail residents in particular should check if they have any rings missing. If anyone is missing a pair of distinctive rings they should call Innisfail police on 4061 5777.

## By Lea Guy

A PAY rise recommended by an independent tribunal has been knocked back in a split vote by councillors this week.

Cassowary Coast Mayor Bill Shannon moved a recommendation to accept a 3 per cent pay rise for all councillors at Thursday's meeting, but was supported by just two of his colleagues — Cr Jennifer Downs and Cr Ross Sorbello — and the motion was lost 4-3.

A subsequent motion to adjust the pay structure to retain the existing salary amounts was carried 5-2 with Crs Shannon and Sorbello against the motion.

"A 3 per cent increase is hardly excessive," Cr Shannon told the meeting.

"There is an established process (for determining remuneration) and I don't see a need to stray from that process."

Cr Downs said the "modest" pay rise was reasonable.

"It's in line with the CPI. It offsets rising councillor expenses



Cr Jennifer Downs

and it's reasonable," she said.

But Deputy Mayor Mark Nolan said he had received feedback from the public that led him to rethink his previous support for a pay increase.

"I think it should be rejected and that money used to offset some of the loan repayments we are going to have to meet," Cr Nolan said.

The vote ensured salaries would remain the same, with a



Cr Ross Sorbello

change instead to the percentage rate on which the remuneration is calculated, based on the salary of a State Parliament Member. Cr Shannon receives \$101,878 plus \$6890 amalgamation loading.

Cr Nolan's salary is \$65,155 plus \$4630 loading and the remaining councillors receive \$55,671 plus \$3920 loading.

The amalgamation loading will decrease on July 1 to \$4590 and \$3090 and \$2610 respectively.