

Push for control

By Michael Thompson

THE Cassowary Coast Regional Council wants control of the region's foreshores it does not already rule over.

Councillors voted 5-2 on Thursday to accept a recommendation for the Minister in Council to place, by gazette notice, defined areas of foreshore under council control as stated in the Local Government Act 1993.

The recommendation also included that the council develop, through "appropriate consultation", a "strategy defining vehicle use on beaches throughout the Cassowary Coast region" to inform future CCRC policy and local laws.

A report presented to councillors by CCRC parks and natural environment manager Paul Devine said vehicle use on beaches was an emerging problem throughout the region

Council wants to set rules for driving on foreshores

and the broader North Queensland and Far North Queensland regions.

"It's not a tenure. It means council would have authority to impose regulation through a local law," Mr Devine told councillors when explaining the recommendation.

Foreshore, the part of the beach between the mean high water spring and the mean low water spring, comes under the control of the State Government through state marine park regulations.

"The use of vehicles on foreshores is an emerging problem at Cowley Beach, Kurrimine Beach, Mission Beach, South Mission Beach and parts of the beaches south of the Tully

River," Mr Devine said in the report.

"From my own observations there is strong support from people in the community that they don't want vehicles on beaches.

"Redlynch City Council and Sunshine Coast Council said 25 years ago their situation was similar to ours now, and would not have had a problem if they acted."

Deputy Mayor Mark Nolan, who voted against the recommendation, said he took issue with the financial and resource implications of controlling the foreshores.

"I think it's crazy politics, I really do," Cr Nolan said.

"Have we got the extra staff

for compliance? It's a state responsibility.

"We're kidding ourselves, who's going to find the funds for this? I thought we had enough problems with our own current assets."

The CCRC has control of almost all the mainland foreshore adjacent to national parks in the area covered by the former Cardwell Shire Council, while the former Johnstone Shire Council, in 1951, was granted control of parts of foreshore at Mission Beach, Kurrimine Beach, South Mission Beach, Kurrimine Beach and ETTY Bay.

"The notification of a local law will automatically alter the behaviour of a large percentage of those community members whose actions we seek to modify," Mr Devine's report said.