



Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

*Driving Productivity
in Australia's Transport Network*

16 June, 2017

Hon Jackie Trad MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure
and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Deputy Premier

RE: Thank you/ State Infrastructure Plan/ Maturing Infrastructure Pipeline Program consideration

As Chair of the IQ-RAP Working Group and on behalf of our Deputy Chair Cr Jane McNamara, Member Mr Michael Roth, (former) Head of Policy RACQ and IQ-RAP Secretariat and CEO RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, Ms Glenys Schuntner, I write to thank you for meeting with us in Brisbane on Tuesday 9 May, 2017 so that we could brief you on the goals of the 49 funding partners including 33 local governments in developing the IQ-RAP to support economic development in regional Queensland. Thank you for accepting the IQ-RAP as a submission to the Queensland Government for consideration in regional economic infrastructure, planning, programming and investment.

As a follow up to our meeting, we thank you for your offer to meet with Minister Mark Bailey in regard to the importance of the regional road network identified in IQ-RAP to broader regional and state economic development objectives. As mentioned in our meeting, IQ-RAP is an initiative to create jobs, improve productivity, open up new tourism opportunities, ensure better safety outcomes and build more resilient connectivity in regional Queensland. Such benefits will not only accrue to those who live in regional Queensland, but also businesses and consumers in South East Queensland and coastal areas that rely on the network for movement of goods and services and tourists. We look forward to your advice from that meeting with Minister Bailey.

As examples of the state-wide relevance of IQ-RAP, including Brisbane, I note that RACQ with more than 1 million members has named IQ-RAP as one of its top five priorities; and Brisbane Markets Limited (BML) has acknowledged the relevance and importance of the regional road network to companies like theirs in Brisbane. The following are some quick facts about Brisbane Markets Limited.

- In excess of 7,000 growers supply produce for sale at the Brisbane Markets.
- More than 600,000 tonnes of produce are moved per annum worth more than \$1.3 billion with much of the product travelling on regional Queensland roads.
- 54 primary wholesale businesses operate at the site as well as an additional 90 support businesses.
- Up to 4,000 people work or do business at the Brisbane Markets on a daily basis.

To take IQ-RAP forward, the Department of Premier and Cabinet is organising a cross-departmental meeting on 23 June in Brisbane. This meeting will also be attended by senior representatives from Treasury; Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Mr Andrew Curthoys, Director); Department of Transport and Main Roads; and Department of State Development. Our objective is to assess the best way forward, taking into consideration economic and social benefit analysis to inform a strategic business case.

When discussing the questions and information required to inform future planning and investment decisions on the prioritised road network in IQ-RAP, and how economic and social benefit analysis can provide the framework, we will also consider the support that can be provided by each department.

The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has developed and manages the ***Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program (MIPP)*** which we believe would be an excellent fit for the purpose of developing the strategic business case for IQ-RAP. The IQ-RAP project fits the Eligibility Criteria.

The IQ-RAP project:

- ✓ **is within early stages of project planning;**
 - has done excellent ground work including building a project alliance; completion of a gap analysis and prioritisation process using Multi-Criteria Assessment, but further work needs to be done to develop the strategic business case
- ✓ **aligns with local government, regional and state priorities;**
 - is funded by 33 local governments due to the importance of road investment to their budgets, council sustainability and the importance of creating local jobs; Regional Plans and consultation on the development of the Regional Transport Plans highlight the prioritisation of investment in road networks; the IQ-RAP can catalyse jobs, a high priority for the State Government, particularly in rural and remote areas where youth unemployment is up to 48%; it can also drive productivity; safer roads and more resilient connectivity
- ✓ **leverages and unlocks economic productivity and enhances liveability;**
 - prioritises roads and bridges for investment to unlock productivity blockages for the movement of inputs to production and products to markets; improvements in road quality will lead to safer roads and improvements in connectivity and liveability
- ✓ **is not currently funded or progressed through another Queensland Government initiative;**
 - is currently funded by 33 local governments, RACQ and five RDA committees without Queensland Government funding. \$400,000 has been raised over the past two years.
- ✓ **aligns with the SIP;**
 - by “supporting employment and productivity through infrastructure-related spending”
 - addresses each of the four objectives of the SIP
- ✓ **addresses identified productivity and liveability needs;**
 - addresses the transport productivity improvements required in the agriculture, mining and transport and logistics sectors and opens up new opportunities for the tourism sector
 - focusses on delivering more resilient road networks for community connectivity to enable the movement of goods, people and service delivery with as little disruption as possible from severe weather events
- ✓ **can attract new or alternate funding sources.**
 - proposes that there are opportunities to align with Federal Government initiatives such as the *Australian Infrastructure Plan, Developing Northern Australia, Regions 2030 Unlocking Opportunity* and other funding programs as well as opportunities to look at new value capture and finance models for road investment

We also believe the IQ-RAP could appropriately be included in the State Infrastructure Plan (SIP), Part B: Program, Transport, Future Opportunities – Short Term and Long Term. It is an excellent example of a collaborative, strategic approach to infrastructure planning to achieve the objectives listed in the SIP – namely improving prosperity and liveability; infrastructure that leads and supports growth and productivity; infrastructure that connects our communities and markets; and improving sustainability and resilience.

Minister, we would appreciate your advice on your willingness to include IQ-RAP in this year's update to SIP and as a project for support under the MIPP in 2017/18. With such advice we could proceed to make a formal application, either prior to 30 June if support is available this fiscal year, or early in the new fiscal year.

Thank you for your interest and consideration of IQ-RAP to enhance economic development in Queensland. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0407 122 430 or through our Secretariat Glenys Schuntner on 07 4410 3655 (B), 0417 198 284 or ceo@rdanwg.org.au in regard to any questions or further engagement with the IQ-RAP Working Group.

We look forward to your advice as above.

Yours sincerely



Cr Eric (Rick) Britton
Chair, IQ-RAP Working Group

CC: IQ-RAP Working Group Deputy Chair, Cr Jane McNamara
IQ-RAP Working Group, Deputy Chair Cr Tom Gilmore
IQ-RAP Working Group Member, Mr Greg Miskowycz, Principal Traffic and Safety Engineer, RACQ
IQ-RAP Funding Partner, Mr Paul Turner, Chief Communications Officer, RACQ
IQ-RAP Working Group Secretariat and CEO RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, Ms Glenys Schuntner

Encl: Updated IQ-RAP Overview June 2017