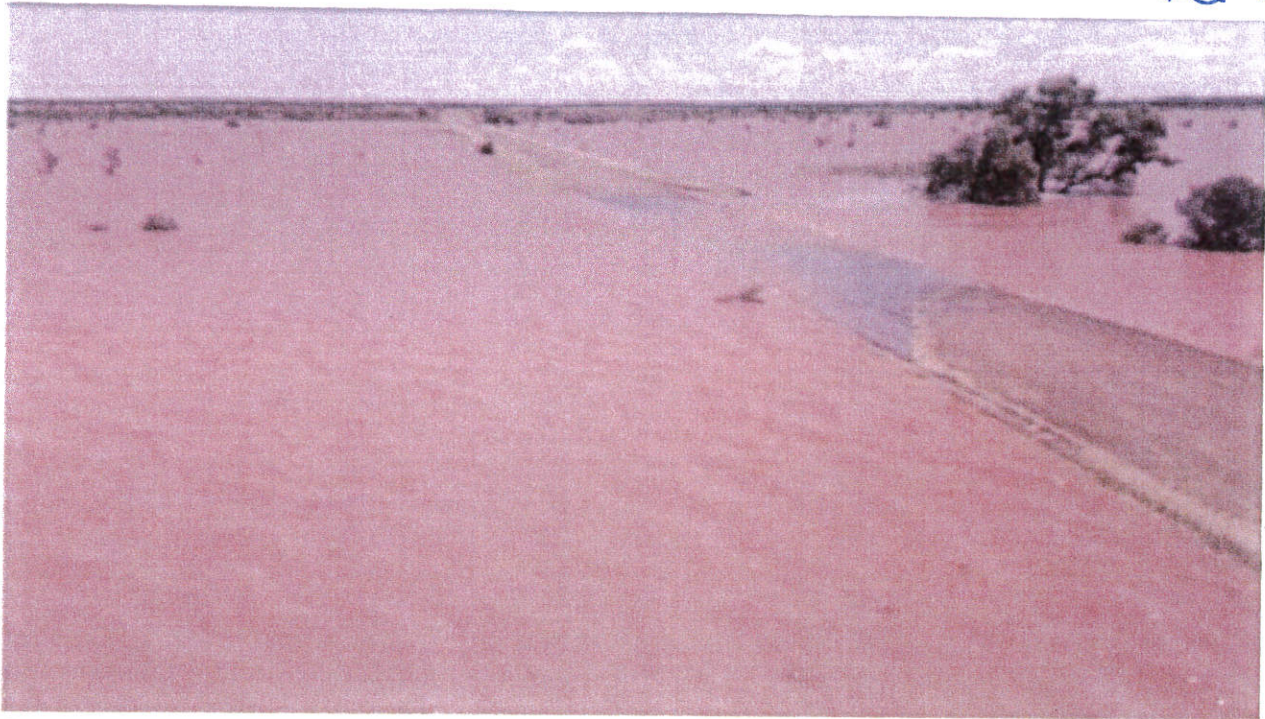



Road funding paints a ROSI picture

LETTER TO EDITOR
IQ-RAP

North
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 WET ONE: The Gilliat Channels on the Beef Road on March 30 as seen by McKinlay Shire Council's flood camera.

A ROSI picture

I would like to highlight the hard work and commitment of rural and regional councils across Queensland who have continuously advocated for more funding to upgrade our inland Queensland roads, which has resulted in the Australian Government investing \$730 million to upgrade and seal roads in northern and north west Queensland.

This shows what can be achieved when councils work collaboratively and what can be accomplished from the grass roots up.

It certainly didn't happen overnight - back in 2013 when I was on the Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland committee (RDA), I raised the issue of regional roads being under-funded and less than a fit-for-purpose standard across much of inland Queensland.

RDA believed there was an opportunity for better outcomes through greater cross-regional collaboration.

After holding regional engagement forums, RDA formed an alliance of local governments, Regional Road Transport Groups, Regional Development Australia Committees and RACQ under the Inland Queensland Roads

Action Project (IQ-RAP) and that led to the development of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan in 2016.

In mid-2018, we updated the plan and launched the Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy, providing a strategic, long-term approach to prioritising road investment to achieve more local jobs, better safety and productivity outcomes.

I want to make special mention of RDA, as they initiated this significant project, and have continued to provide support in the role as Secretariat and project manager over more than five years.

RDA has helped us to achieve one of the most significant commitments ever made to the northern and north west Queensland road network west of the Bruce Highway.

The Australian Government's investment to seal and upgrade strategic corridors will create jobs, reduce freight costs and help attract tourists and new businesses, building our sustainable future.

The IQ-RAP funding partners welcome the Australian Government's funding for North Queensland under the Regional Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program and we now look forward to the announcement of ROSI allocations for the south-west Queensland area covered in the IQ-RAP and also funding opportunities for connecting routes to and from the main corridors.

cr Rick Britton, Chair IQ-RAP Working Group, Mayor of Lostie Shire Council