



AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited

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MG/ZW/GG015

20 February 2018

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance & Special Minister of State
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By Post & by Email: financeminister@finance.gov.au

Dear Senator Cormann

Re: Support for the 'Better Roads for Regional Development' Pre-Budget Submission made on behalf of the IQ-RAP Working Group by RDA Townsville and North West Queensland

AgForce is the peak rural group representing the majority of beef, sheep & wool and grain producers in Queensland. The broadacre beef, sheep and grains industries in Queensland generated around \$6.8 billion in gross farm-gate value of production in 2015-16. AgForce exists to facilitate the long-term growth, viability, competitiveness and profitability of these industries. Our members provide high-quality food and fibre products to Australian and overseas consumers, manage around 40% of the Queensland agricultural landscape and contribute significantly to the social fabric of rural and remote communities.

Transport makes up to 40% of farmers' production costs and therefore, access to quality and affordable transport options is vitally important for growing the Queensland agricultural industry, and the sustainability of the communities that it supports.

The ability to effectively move agricultural commodities and associated inputs through the supply chain is paramount. In Queensland, the suitability and condition of roads is a large drain on productivity with producers ultimately paying more for the transportation of goods. Without long-term planning, prioritisation and appropriate funding, our regional areas will be severely disadvantaged in efforts to compete and grow.

We are strong supporters of the IQ-RAP project and urge you to support their pre-budget submission that has been made on behalf of 28 local governments, five Regional Development Authority committees and RACQ that have been partners in the IQ-RAP project since 2015.

To take the IQ-RAP forward, the Working Group requires \$2 million in funding to do more intensive economic and social benefits analysis that will inform all levels of governments to assist with policies, programs and investment decision-making.

ADVANCING RURAL QUEENSLAND

I attach a summary of the pre-Budget submission and look forward to your investment in this 'Better Roads for Regional Development' initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Geurin', written in a cursive style.

Mike Geurin
Chief Executive Officer

Encs

cc: The Hon David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
By Email: david.littleproud.mp@aph.gov.au

Ms Glenys Schuntner, Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group
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