



CATHY O'TOOLE MP
MEMBER FOR HERBERT

A strong voice for Herbert

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

Dear Minister

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

I have been a long-time supporter of the IQ-RAP project and so I write to you to demonstrate my support of their pre-budget submission to secure \$2 million in funding.

I also note at a local level that Townsville City Council in my region is a partner in the IQ-RAP and I commend them for their support of the western road network that is vital for all eastern ports in Queensland.

IQ-RAP was launched in 2016 and it is now being updated by 28 local governments, five RDA committees and RACQ and will be completed by May, 2018. IQ-RAP 2 will be the basis for the proposed research projects.

To take the IQ-RAP forward in 2018/19, the Working Group requires \$2 million in funding support to complement their work with more economic and social data analysis.

This will help form the business case and answer questions that have been put forward to them by parliamentarians and departmental executives. For example, where specifically will the 31,500 jobs be created; how will this help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage across rural and remote areas; what will be the productivity gains on each road and bridge upgrade that is critical for freight movements; what tourism opportunities can be leveraged from upgrades to roads and safety.

As regional Queensland stakeholders have already contributed \$400,000 in cash and nearly \$400,000 in-kind to this project to date, I recommend that the Australian Government fund the \$2 million required to deliver the nine research projects that will benefit not only regional Queensland but others across Australia that are involved in planning and funding regional roads.

I attach a summary of the pre-Budget submission and look forward to your positive response to the "Better Roads for Regional Development" proposal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy O'Toole', written in a cursive style.

Ms Cathy O'Toole
Federal Member for Herbert

Cc:

Ms Glenys Schuntner, Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group c/ RDA Townsville and North West Queensland