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The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MC18-000741

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

11 3 MAR 2018

Dear Treasurer *Scott*

I recently met the Inland Queensland-Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) Working Group and Secretariat who briefed me on their pre-budget submission seeking \$2 million from the Commonwealth to deliver nine research projects that will support planning for proposed investments in priority regional roads.

I am advised Queensland stakeholders have contributed \$400,000 in cash and nearly \$400,000 in-kind to this project to date. The IQ-RAP Working Group has support from the National Farmers' Federation, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Agforce, Growcom, Brisbane Markets Limited and Hancock Prospecting.

Agriculture is an important industry Maranoa. Most of the local governments in Maranoa are partners in IQ-RAP, including Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Longreach, Paroo and Maranoa.

The agricultural industries and communities of Queensland recognise the valuable contribution the Coalition Government's \$100 million Northern Australia Beef Roads initiative is making. These stakeholders also recognise the need for the Queensland Government, which is responsible for the regional road network, to make a greater contribution.

This project is impressive in terms of scale of collaboration, coverage, timelines and potential impact on regional sustainability. Thirty-three Queensland councils have partnered together with five Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees and RACQ to collaborate on developing the strategic freight and tourism planning tool for the 82 per cent of the state that lies west of the Bruce Highway and outside of South East Queensland.

I attach a summary of the IQ-RAP submission for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

cc: Hon. Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister
Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance
Senator the Hon. Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Hon. John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories & Local Government
Glenys Schuntner, Chief Executive Officer, RDA Townsville and North West Queensland and Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group