



Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

Driving Productivity
in Australia's Transport Network



Update from the IQ-RAP Secretariat

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and great start to 2016! On behalf of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) Project Team I am pleased to provide you with an update on this major project.

With many thanks to the collaboration effort of 47 funding partners and other supporters, the IQ-RAP project is progressing well and the Project Team is pleased to advise that the draft plan was distributed to funding partners on 22nd December for feedback by 18th January 2016. There are also two Q&A teleconference sessions being held for funding partners to be briefed on the processes undertaken including the gap analysis and multi-criteria analysis.

Information gathering is continuing in order to further strengthen the plan, especially in regards to the regional economic importance of the IQ-RAP network to key industries such as mining, gas, agriculture, tourism and the freight and logistics industry which supports the wholesale and retail sectors.

Public and private sector engagement is on-going and a list of recent meetings is included on page 7.

Artwork has been developed including an IQ-RAP logo and its application across various branded templates and items for the promotion of the IQ-RAP such as the plan layout, letterheads, newsletters and banners.

The *Working Group Terms of Reference* has been updated to reflect developments and the project timelines and was sent out to all members on 21st December for feedback by 11th January.

The Project Team was provided with a draft *Communications and Work Plan* for mid-January – February on 23rd December and this is expected to be finalised by 11th January and forwarded to the Working Group. All funding partners will be sent information at that time about key launch and briefing dates.

The final IQ-RAP will be completed by late January, forwarded to funding partners by email link and then released publicly soon after. The IQ-RAP will then be presented in individual meetings with key Ministers within the Australian and Queensland Governments as well as group briefings in key departments and more broadly with stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

The following pages provide more detail on the IQ-RAP and its development. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. I can be reached on 07 4410 3655; 0417 198 284 or by email at ceo@rdanwq.org.au

I look forward to providing you with a further update on behalf of the Project Team again in the near future.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, prosperous and successful year ahead!

Kind Regards

Glenys Schuntner
Secretariat, IQ-RAP
CEO, RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee

IQ-RAP Project Team



Mr Peter Maguire
Chairman
Mayor of Central Highlands Regional Council



Mr Dave Burges
CEO Quilpie Shire Council



Mr Russell Whale
RACQ Transport Planning and ITS Adviser



Mr David Donohue
Committee Member
RDA Townsville & North West Queensland

A collaborative approach to regional roads planning by 47 funding partners

Funding Partners of the IQ-RAP



Funding Partners of the IQ-RAP Secretariat

- Northern Queensland Strategy Alliance: RDA Far North Queensland and Torres Strait, RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, RDA Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, RDA Fitzroy and Central West
- Regional Road and Transport Groups: Bowen Basin, Far North Queensland, Gladstone, North West, Outback, Rockhampton, South West Queensland and Western Downs
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Townsville City Council

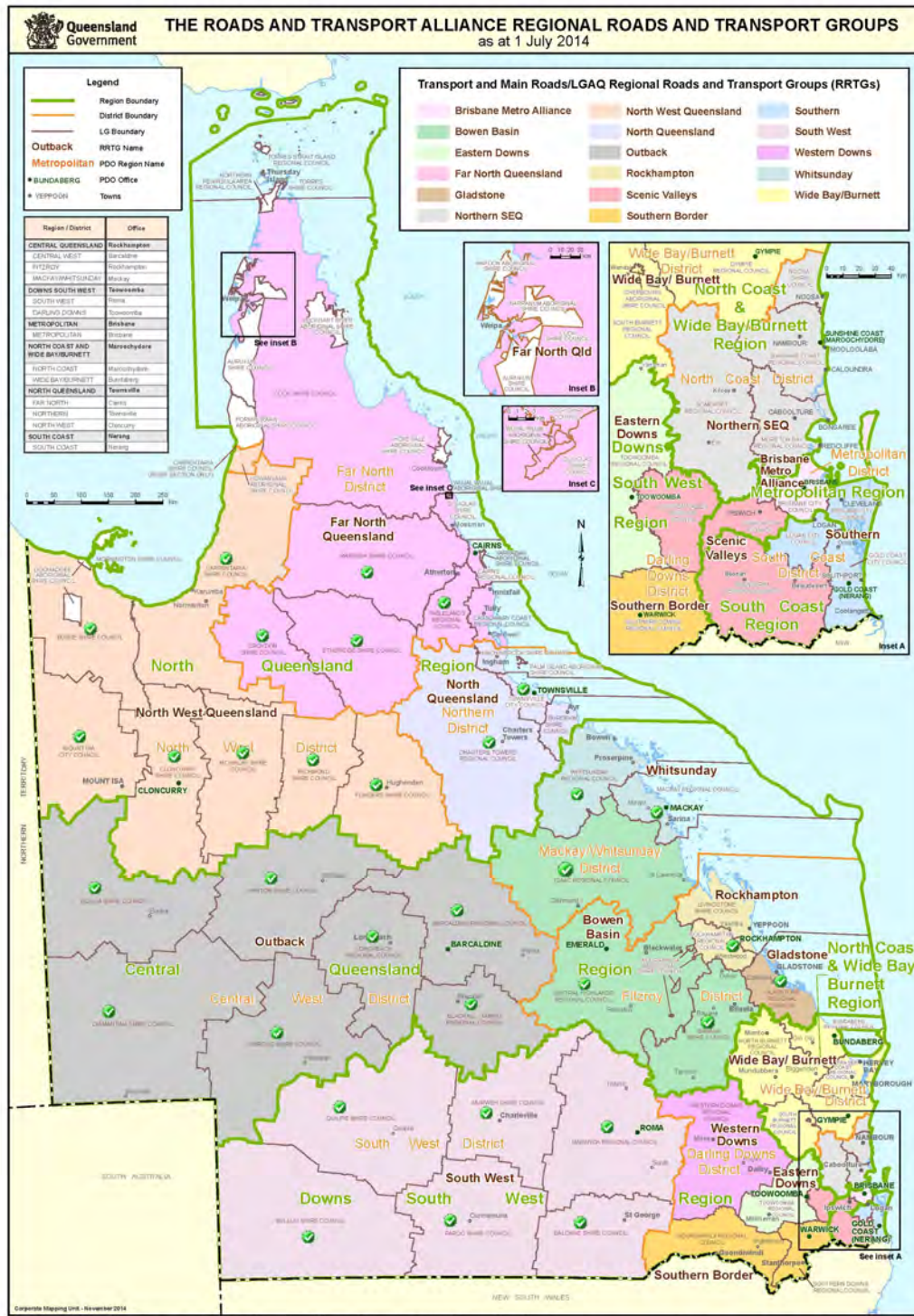
In-kind Support

- Department of Transport and Main Roads

IQ-RAP Scope

The IQ-RAP project scope covers 33 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) west of the Bruce Highway and outside South East Queensland, an area of 1.4 million km² which equates to 82% of Queensland's total area. The population in 2016 is forecast to be 735,000 but by 2036 will exceed one million. The 33 LGAs that are providing funding for the development of the IQ-RAP range in size from Townsville with a population of 204,000 to Diamantina with 289 in 2016.

In the following Queensland Regional Road and Transport Groups map, participating Councils, and hence the geographic scope of the IQ-RAP, are marked by a white tick on a green background.



Road Infrastructure Challenges in Queensland

Over many years, the inland Queensland roads have attracted less than required funding for maintenance, safety and productivity upgrades. With an area of 1.7 million km² and a road network of 186,859km in length, Queensland does have a significant challenge in not only maintaining roads but upgrading them to meet current community and industry expectations for safety and productivity.

By comparison, following the development of the Bruce Highway Action Plan and significant stakeholder advocacy, the 1,652 km Bruce Highway secured \$8.9 billion over 10 years for upgrades for safety and productivity. The Commonwealth Government has committed 80% of funding and the State Government has committed 20% of funding. There is now an opportunity to focus on the development of the inland network to complement the Bruce Highway and to make a significant improvement to the safety and productivity of the industry supply chains for the movement of freight from production sites to domestic and export markets as well as distribution of freight to service regional businesses and communities. Productivity and safety improvements are required on east-west and north-south roads.

Our observations are that coastal highways pass through:

- Major population centres which are working to remove heavy transport through bypasses;
- High - Light Vehicle traffic areas which increases the risk of HV-LV interaction;
- Lower reaches of every major river system requiring larger bridges to minimise regular significant flooding;
- Significantly mountainous areas requiring expensive construction and higher fuel use;
- Areas of more severe marine weather, especially cyclones; and
- A road network which is not designed for or which allows access for more efficient road-trains.

Going around the edge of the nation is the longest way between any two points. Inland routes, on the other hand:

- Pass through smaller centres which traditionally are welcoming of road transport;
- Cross the upper reaches of rivers in a much more moderate terrain;
- Generally run through areas of lower rainfall and more stable climate;
- Have significantly less light vehicle traffic, and are in the main, designated road train routes; and
- With appropriately formed roads would present more direct transport routes with associated productivity gains.

What's good for inland Queensland is good for Australia



Initiation of the IQ-RAP

The Regional Development Australia (RDA) Townsville and North West Queensland Committee first considered the concept of developing a Roads Action Plan for the inland Queensland region shortly after the success of the Bruce Highway Action Plan (BHAP) in securing long-term funding commitments from the Australian and Queensland Governments. RDA believed that there was also an opportunity for better safety and productivity outcomes on inland Queensland roads through greater cross-regional collaboration, more long term planning and increased long-term funding to also ensure greater certainty for budgeting and execution of works along with maintaining the regional work force and equipment required to maintain and upgrade roads in inland Queensland.

RDA proceeded as a result to engage with four other RDAs (Far North Queensland and Torres Strait, Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, Fitzroy Central West and Darling Downs South West) to convene a forum in Longreach in December 2013 to discuss the opportunity with key regional stakeholders.

IQ-RAP Work to Date

More than 50 Council and road related stakeholders attended the Longreach Forum and voted to continue developing the project and also agreed that the criteria for prioritising road projects cover Economic, Safety, Strategic Intent, Access and Capacity and Social considerations.

At the Longreach forum, an Interim Working Group was formed and chaired by RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee Member and Boulia Mayor Cr Rick Britton and the RDA Committee offered to continue as the Secretariat to take the project forward. Desk research and engagement was undertaken to assess the potential for the development of an IQ-RAP.

A second forum was held in Mount Isa in August 2014 to discuss the way forward and how we could collaborate to develop stronger cases for investment in regional road infrastructure and achieve more reliable and consistent funding over a longer period. At this forum, the Regional Road and Transport Groups (RRTGs) committed to taking the project forward by contributing financially to the Secretariat. This was further supported by the Northern Queensland Strategy alliance of four northern Queensland RDAs from Far North Queensland and Torres Strait, Townsville and North West Queensland, Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday and Fitzroy Central West.

In October 2014, a new on-going Working Group meeting was held in Mackay with the acceptance of the Terms of Reference and the election of the Working Group Chair Cr Butch Lenton, Mayor of Winton Shire Council and appointment of 8 representatives from RRTGs and 1 each from the RDA partners and RACQ.

From November 2014 to August 2015, the Secretariat secured funding from Councils, RDA Committees and RACQ. A Project Team was formed to undertake the tender process and with the Secretariat developed the Tender Brief, invited submissions, shortlisted and interviewed candidates and selected the successful company – the Harrison Infrastructure Group (HIG) which is based in Toowoomba. HIG was engaged in late August, 2015.

From August to December 2015 the Working Group and Secretariat provided guidance and feedback to HIG at each stage of the project and development of the plan.

IQ-RAP Working Group and Project Team

The original Terms of Reference for the "IQ-RAP Working Group" were established in October 2014 and can be found at www.rdanwq.org.au. Due to ill health, Cr Butch Lenton stood down on 30th October 2015 as Chair and Cr Peter Maguire has become the Interim Chair. We all wish to acknowledge Cr Butch Lenton for his leadership and strong support for the IQ-RAP project and wish him well for a speedy recovery to full health. The Terms of Reference is currently being revised by members and will be updated by 11th January, 2016.

The Project Team has been active since late 2014 and is made up volunteers from the Working Group - Cr Peter Maguire, Mayor of Central Highlands Regional Council, Russell Whale, Transport Planning & ITS Advisor, RACQ and David Donohue, representative of the four RDAs that are financially contributing to the project and member of the RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee and Dave Burges, CEO, Quilpie Shire Council who also volunteered.

In December 2015 the North West Queensland RRTG nominated a volunteer to join the Project Team and this has been put forward to the Working Group.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank Michael Roth, Executive Manager Public Policy, RACQ for his strong support and engagement with the project through both the Working Group and Project Team before Russell substituted Michael in these groups.

IQ-RAP Scope of Works

The IQ-RAP will be a 15 year plan for the development of the inland Queensland road network and will be used to inform both the Australian and Queensland Governments of road funding priorities across 33 regional, rural and remote local government areas that make up 82% of Queensland. This is the first time a strategic level analysis and prioritisation process has been undertaken on such a large scale covering 15,000 kilometres of regional, rural and remote roads.

The IQ-RAP will:

1. Focus on the road networks in two distinct areas namely the **Western Inland Zone** and the **Eastern Inland Zone** taking in all Councils which are contributing to the Plan.
2. Reference existing and impending reports including the Queensland Government's Heavy Vehicle Action Plan and provide an overview of key road infrastructure across Inland Queensland, including collation of relevant, available data, such as traffic volumes, flood and incident-related closure statistics, accident data, and any other relevant data.
3. Develop a methodology for prioritisation of road construction and maintenance works for each of the Western and Eastern Inland Zones that focuses on economic value (including productivity on supply chains), safety, strategic intent, access, and social value.
4. Set a network vision, objectives and level of service framework.
5. Undertake a gap analysis based on the above research.
6. Identify 5, 10, and 15-year priorities and funding scenarios.
7. Advise on a program of works to implement the above.
8. Be completed by late January, 2016.

The following is the draft map of the Inland Queensland Road Network that is under review.



IQ-RAP Stakeholder Engagement

An important component of Secretariat work has been stakeholder engagement. The following are some examples of meetings undertaken on one or more occasions.

Australian Parliament

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development The Hon Warren Truss MP
 Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
 Former Treasurer The Hon Joe Hockey MP
 Queensland Senator The Hon Ian Macdonald
 Member for Herbert Mr Ewen Jones MP
 Advisers to the Deputy Prime Minister – Mr Simon Kelly, Mr Adam Fitzgerald, Mr Damian Callachor
 Adviser to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources – Mr Andrew Henderson
 Senior Adviser on Northern Australia to the Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia - Daniel Caruso

Australian Government Departments / Agencies

CSIRO Land and Water – Andrew Higgins
 Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, North West Roads – A/G General Manager Christina Garbin
 Infrastructure Australia - Chief Executive Officer Philip Davies
 Office of Northern Australia – General Manager Mr James Collett and Manager Mr Andrew Dickson

Queensland Parliament

Premier and Minister for Arts The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
 Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment The Hon Jackie Trad MP
 Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
 Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland The Hon Coralee O'Rourke MP
 Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply The Hon Mark Bailey MP
 Former Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing The Hon Bill Byrne MP

Queensland Government Departments

Department of Transport and Main Roads – General Manager Portfolio Investment and Programming Les Dunn and Director Planning Program David Hubner
 Department of State Development – Regional Director North Darren Cleland
 Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games – Senior Projects Officer Lisa Travers and Project Manager Chris Newman

Other Key Stakeholders

AgForce – North Queensland Regional Manager Paul Burke
 Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association – Executive Director Mathew Munro
 Australian Logistics Council – Director Communications and Policy Duncan Sheppard
 Australian Local Government Association – Chief Executive Adrian Breresford-Wylie
 Deloitte Access Economics - Principal Advisor on Economics and Infrastructure Helen Stehbins
 Local Government Association Queensland – Principal Advisor Scott Britton and Manager Simone Talbot
 Queensland Farmers' Federation – Interim Chief Executive Ruth Wade
 Queensland Resources Council – Director of Economics and Infrastructure Andrew Barger
 Queensland Tourism Industry Council – Deputy Chief Executive Brett Kapernick
 Queensland Transport and Logistics Council - Chief Executive Officer Dr Rebecca Michael

Next Steps

11 th January	Working Group Terms of Reference update finalised
11 th January	Draft IQ-RAP Communications and Work Plan for mid-January – 29 February finalised and to be distributed to the Working Group
14 th January	IQ-RAP Q&A Teleconference 2 for funding partners
18 th January	Draft IQ-RAP feedback due; collation of additional information Finalise IQ-RAP and Executive Summary Despatch to printers Distribute online

Tentative dates being finalised

	Media launch of IQ-RAP
2 nd -4 th February	Ministerial and Departmental Briefings in Canberra
15 th – 19 th February	Ministerial and Departmental Briefings in Brisbane Stakeholder Briefings in Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney Speaking opportunities at road infrastructure related conferences



The IQ-RAP project also has the strong support of the Northern RDA Alliance

The Alliance is seen here engaging with The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia and Michelle Landry MP, Member for Capricornia in Canberra in November, 2015.

From left to right: Michelle Landry MP, Member for Capricornia; Allan Dale, Chairperson, RDA Far North Queensland and Torres Strait; The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP; Jann Crase, Chief Executive Officer, RDA Far North Queensland and Torres Strait; Michael Reed AM, Chair, RDA Northern Territory; Glenys Schuntner, Chief Executive Officer, RDA Townsville and North West Queensland; Alan Bradley, Executive Officer, RDA Mid West Gascoyne;

Kate Peake, Executive Officer, RDA Northern Territory; Leonie Noble, Deputy Chair, RDA Mid West Gascoyne and Kalair McArthur, Executive Officer, RDA Fitzroy and Central West