

*Developing the long term  
sustainability of our region*

## Quarterly Update

### November 2018



**Welcome to our third Quarterly Update and 100th edition of Community Connections!**

The Australian Government has asked RDAs to provide quarterly reports on their key activities to their regional stakeholders. I am pleased to present our third Quarterly Update to you as a key stakeholder in our region's economic development.

In this report I cover off on activities undertaken in the July to September period:

1. An update on the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP)
2. Other activities under our Business Plan and Funding Agreement
3. Update on regional statistics

The highlight in this period is the progress on securing support for the IQ-RAP and the updated priorities in the Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy. We have had positive on-going engagement with the Federal Government in regard to aligning with their new \$3.5 billion Roads of Strategic Importance initiative and secured a \$500 million pre-election commitment from the Federal ALP. Please see page 3 for more details.

During this period we have also welcomed new Ministers for Regional Development.

Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Michael McCormack MP now has the portfolio as Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. His Assistant Minister the Hon Andrew Broad MP has responsibilities for overseeing the RDA program and we look forward to our engagement with them.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 07 4410 3655 or [ceo@rdanwq.org.au](mailto:ceo@rdanwq.org.au) if you wish to learn more about any matters in this report. Further information is also available on our website <http://rdanwq.org.au/> and we promote grant information through our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RDATownsvilleandNWQ>

Thank you to everyone we have partnered and engaged with over this period to collaborate on developing the long term sustainability of our region.

Kind Regards

**Glenys Schuntner**  
Chief Executive Officer

#### RDA Committee

**Mr David Donohue**

*Acting Chair*



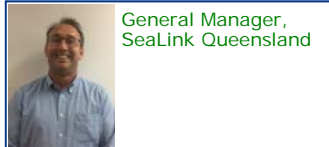
**Prof. Sabina Knight**

*Acting Deputy Chair*



**Mr Chris Briggs**

*Secretary*

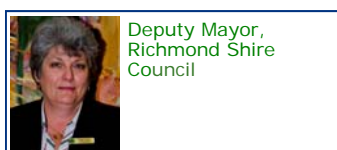


**Cr Mary Brown**

*Treasurer*



**Cr June Kuhl**



**Cr Greg Campbell**



**Cr Jack Bawden**



**Cr John Woods**



## Quarterly Report—July—September 2018

The following are examples of activities under each of our Funding Agreement Outcome themes.

### Outcome 1—Increased economic opportunities and investment

- Held meetings with several new investors and provided advice and facilitated introductions as appropriate (due to confidentiality requirements more details cannot be provided at this time).
- Provided letters of support to a variety of projects.
- Engaged with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning in regard to the concept of creating an aviation investment strategy for the region focussed on pilot/ drone and aviation maintenance training and leveraging the new Queensland Aerospace Roadmap and Action Plan <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/aerospace/aerospace-roadmap.pdf>

### Outcome 2—Increased trade and jobs creation

- Co-chaired 2 NQ Trade and Investment Group meetings including a breakfast with visiting trade commissioners to discuss American and Middle East markets.
- Attended the JCU Asian market Forum.

### Outcome 3—cooperative effort with local government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders—see page 3

### Outcome 4—Achieve government program objectives

- **Regional Employment Trials (RET) Program**  
Our RDA has been selected as one of 10 (of 52) around the nation to participate in this program in coordination with the Department of Jobs and Small Business. Ahead of the formal commencement of the program in October, RDA was involved in a series of meetings to plan the way forward. In our next Quarterly Update we will be able to advise on the number of applications being received and judged by RDA. For more information: <https://www.jobs.gov.au/regional-employment-trials-program>

### Outcome 5—Maximise access to Government programs and grants

- RDA promoted programs and grants through Community Connections and facebook.
- This period was between the Regional Growth Fund and Building Better Regions Fund rounds.

### Outcome 6—Advice supports development outcomes

- RDA made a submission to the regional telecommunications review.
- The Acting Chair and CEO attended the Townsville Enterprise function in Canberra to show support for their promotion of the North Queensland region.
- The Acting Chair and CEO attended the National RDA Forum in Canberra. The CEO also made a presentation on the IQ-RAP project to the RDA workshop ahead of the forum.
- The CEO facilitated the organisation of the Northern RDA Alliance meeting in Canberra and attended with the Acting Chair. The 8 Northern Australia RDA Committees met with key departmental stakeholders and provided feedback on programs such as the Regional Growth Fund and Building Better Regions Fund.

### Update to Regional Statistics

The latest Regional Profile is available: <http://rdanwq.org.au/regional-profile>

Our key concern is the continuing high unemployment, which is 9.1% in the Townsville and North West Queensland region vs 6% across Queensland as a whole.

### Update on RDA

- The Committee has elected Professor Sabina Knight as the Acting Deputy Chair given Deputy Chair David Donohue is currently Acting Chair.
- Ms Ellie Edmonds has resigned as Executive Assistant and Ms Kerry Dean is assisting as a temporary EA in this period before Christmas while recruitment is taking place.

## Quarterly Report—July—September 2018

### Outcome 3—cooperative effort with local government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders

#### Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) update

The IQ-RAP is an on-going partnership of 28 local governments, 5 RDA Committees and RACQ to secure more strategic and long-term funding into the inland Queensland road network. RDA is the project manager.

In August, RDA completed work on updating the original *Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan* and developing the new *Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy*, *Appendices* and *Overview* documents and published and distributed them to key stakeholders.

RDA researched and created a *Corridors and Connectors* document based on the IQ-RNS to demonstrate how the recommendations align with the objectives of the Australian Government's \$3.5 billion Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) 10 year initiative.

RDA organised meeting appointments and logistics and attended the following engagement and advocacy meetings:

#### Brisbane:

Travis Tobin, Queensland Farmers' Federation  
Lachlan Millar, State Member for Gregory  
Luan Sadikaj, Deputy Under Treasurer  
Warwick Agnew, Director General, Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs  
Amelia Shaw and Zachary Whale, AgForce  
Catherine Black, Queensland Treasury Corporation  
Neil Scales, Director General, Department of Transport and Main Roads  
Andrew Barger and Tom Cunningham, Queensland Resources Council

#### Canberra:

The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt  
Michelle Landry, Member for Capricornia  
Anthony Albanese, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
Jason Clare, Shadow Minister for Resources and Northern Australia  
Steven Jones, Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government  
Dr Steven Kennedy, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities  
Ms Christina Garbin, General Manager, North West Roads  
Brett White, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister  
Melinda Hashimoto, Senior Adviser, Senator Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia  
Guy Ragen, Advisor to Bill Shorten  
Cecilia Tran, Office of Northern Australia  
Anna Campbell, CEO, Red Meat Advisory Council

#### Other:

Coralee O'Rourke, Member for Mundingburra  
IQ-RAP Working Group and executive meetings

G. Schuntner presented on IQ-RAP at the Northern Alliance of Councils and the National RDA conferences.

**On 1 September, The Hon Bill Shorten MP committed \$500 million to the inland Queensland road network. "Federal Labor's commitment to making this substantial investment in Queensland's vital inland roads and highways follows the strong advocacy and work of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project, which brings together 28 local governments, five Regional Development Australia committees, and the RACQ."**

Since September, work has been on-going through regular engagement with key stakeholders and providing input to ROSI planning. On behalf of the Working Group, RDA is now working on preparation for a delegation to Brisbane on 5 December to meet with the Hon Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.



Launch of the new Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy on 22 August, 2018—  
IQ-RAP Working Group Deputy Chairs Cr Tom Gilmore and Cr Jane McNamara, IQ-RAP Working Group members Cr John Wharton and Cr Liz Schmidt, IQ-RAP partners including RDA Committee members Cr Mary Brown and Cr Greg Campbell