

**Isolated Children's Parents Association Qld Inc.**

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*Lobbying for opportunity, equity & support for all rural and remote students*

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29 April 2016

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**RE: INLAND QUEENSLAND ROADS ACTION PLAN**

It is with pleasure that ICPA Qld Inc. provides a letter of support for the abovementioned project. ICPA believes an accessible road network in inland Queensland is vital to improve the services available west of the divide.

A reliable freight network which is not handicapped by weather events is crucial to ensure a standard of living in regional Queensland is maintained all year round. Residents should not lack access to basic goods and services because of where they live, and the economy cannot withstand such limitations. Quality road infrastructure also ensures that communities can strongly benefit from the tourism industry, which is often one of the main forms of income for regional communities.

The agricultural industry is a major contributor to the Qld and Australian economy and is the cornerstone of many regional, rural and remote communities. The ability to transport stock to ports and markets via robust, inland road train routes safely and efficiently can only serve to support the livelihood of the many grazing families and companies residing in the outback. This in turn injects cash into the local community to support the local economy.

In many regions the mining sector employs a vast number of residents who reside in the local communities. In order for this industry to be sustainable, quality access roads for high productivity road freight vehicles are a necessity.

ICPA's core business is to provide access to a quality, equitable education for all students living in rural and remote communities. The population decline in regional Queensland over the last 25 years is a major concern for our organisation. As population declines, so do services, including educational. The implementation of the IQ RAP to its fruition is a strong, productive way to ensure industry is supported and residents are not disadvantaged due to

where they live. It is vital that inland communities have the opportunity to once again thrive, and not just survive. We commend all parties involved in this innovative Plan and support it wholeheartedly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

**Kim Hughes**  
**President**