



towards the next race or goal, studying and constantly learning, I have taken time out to chill, not just letting the body take a rest, but my mind too.

I decided to limit myself from all social

you will enjoy some peace and quiet.
2. Limit your time on social media, one-step further and see if you can go out it for a week. Try it and see how n free time and what an impact it actua

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROADS PRIORITY IN ADVANCING THE NORTH

I am pleased to see that road infrastructure has become one of the top priorities for the State Government in its Advancing North Queensland plan.

In our highly decentralised state roads are a vital key in driving the Queensland economy forward.

An accessible and safe road network is crucial for regional areas, for the delivery of goods and services, freight movement and the tourism industry.

However, over the years there has been a lack of sufficient investment for road maintenance and upgrades.

My observation is that the inland Queensland region continues to secure much less than its fair share of funding in relation to its economic contribution to the nation and area covered.

While the State Budget delivered some funding to roads in inland Queensland, there is still a long way to go to bring our roads up to standard.

For example, 3000km and 300 bridges across the inland network are not up to scratch.

These alarming statistics were revealed in the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP).

The IQ-RAP prioritises road upgrades over the next 18 years and is designed to assist stakeholders and governments to assess and prioritise projects for funding to ensure maximum economic benefits across regional Queensland.

It is important that regional roads are a priority for all levels of government, in order to drive economic growth and jobs, for this generation and generations to come.

We look forward to further commitments to the regional Queensland road network, both in the north and inland areas.

Peter Maguire
Chair, Working Group
Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan



HIDDEN IN HILLS: After the June rainfall Rifle Creek Dam is full and looking pictures
Photo: Samantha Walton.

AGED CARE FUNDING CUTS

The Government's last Budget contained massive cuts to aged care.

These cuts are targeted at frail older people with complex health care needs such as dementia, diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.

Uniting Care Australia, Aged and Community Services Australia and Catholic Health Australia commissioned independent modelling of the impact of the cuts on 39,000 people across 501 aged care homes, or 21 per cent of the aged care sector.

The results are stark.

The Government is removing more than \$2.5 billion from aged care.

This is more than \$840 million over its stated savings, which will significantly reduce the support for frail older people.

The costs of services currently provided to consumers with complex care needs will no longer be covered.

The consequence will be that older people soon may not get essential health treatments such as physiotherapy, skin care or

non-medication pain management.

Cuts of this magnitude will compel aged care service providers to review the services with the very real risk that they will no longer be able to accept clients being discharged from hospitals.

Our clear message to our political leaders is that they need to understand the impact of these cuts on the most vulnerable people in our society - our family members and loved ones.

They deserve much better than this, and our acute care system and hospitals are already under extreme pressure.

We are calling for the Government to halt the cuts and work with the sector to identify a more sustainable means of meeting the health care needs of older people.

Peter Bicknell, Chair,
National Committee, UnitingCare Australia
Martin J Cowling, Acting National Director,
UnitingCare Australia

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