

**REGIONAL ROADS IN LINE FOR MASSIVE GROWTH**

THE Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) Working Group applauds the Australian Government's commitment in the Federal Budget 2017-18 to investing in rural and regional roads.

The Northern Australia Roads program will deliver up to \$223.8 million for projects in Queensland, with \$37.3 million to be provided in 2017-18.

While the Northern Australia Beef Roads program will deliver up to \$56.9 million for projects in Queensland, with \$26 million to be provided in 2017-18.

We also welcome the continuation of funding to vital road programs, such as the Black Spot program and the Roads to Recovery. In our highly decentralised state, an accessible and safe road network is the key to regional economic growth. While the federal budget has delivered much-needed funding to regional Queensland roads, there is still a long way to go to bring our inland road network up to standard, with the IQ-RAP revealing 3000km and 300 bridges

across the network are not up to scratch.

The IQ-RAP prioritises inland 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 and social benefits. We look forward to further commitment to regional roads from both the state and federal governments.

*Cr Rick Britton, Mayor of Boulia Shire, Chair of Working Group Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan*