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# Kennedy to rap rewards

Federal Budget appears to have structure in mind for North Islanders, at least.

Minister Josh Frydenberg and Minister Scott Morrison have delivered a Budget aimed at voters with a federal election in the middle of May.

ALP, and leader Bill Shorten, made policy announcements for pointing to how they think they better than the Coalition to be honest, has been in a state of disarray since before last year's election.

But the Coalition be re-elected, we ought to see some big dollars in the electorate.

Billions of dollars set aside for water infrastructure projects in Kennedy — Big Bay, Hells Gates Dam and the Inland Irrigation Scheme — will significantly change agricultural opportunities for the region. Although announced late last year, the \$100 million to be invested between Townsville and Tennant Creek and you have opened even more opportunities for beef production.

Flinders Shire Hospital has been funded for an upgrade as part of the Government's Our Hospitals Initiative. It will only benefit Charters Towers in the long term.

But at the state will receive less money this year so no doubt the Government will be hoping Morrison and his team are not to blame.

But this, Mr Shorten is yet to reply to the Budget. So it will be interesting to see what he has to say about planned spending.

What we need to do is buckle up for the election campaign that looks like it is shifting focus from climate change to fiscal management.

## ROSI FUNDING IS WARMLY WELCOMED

I APPLAUD the Federal Government's \$730 million funding announcement to upgrade rural and regional roads in northern Queensland.

In particular I welcome the commitment to the Hann Highway which has been a very high priority for Flinders Shire Council and our community.

This significant investment will drive productivity and improve safety for our local industries, particularly for cattle producers and the agriculture industry as well as opening up new opportunities for tourism.

This new funding to upgrade the inland road network shows what can be achieved when we work collaboratively.

In 2013, Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA) believed there was an opportunity for better outcomes on inland roads through greater cross-regional collaboration.

After holding regional engagement forums, RDA formed an alliance of local governments, Regional Road Transport Groups, Regional Development Australia Committees and RACQ under the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) and that led to the development of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan in 2016.

It was the first strategic, long-term prioritised road investment plan for the inland Queensland region.

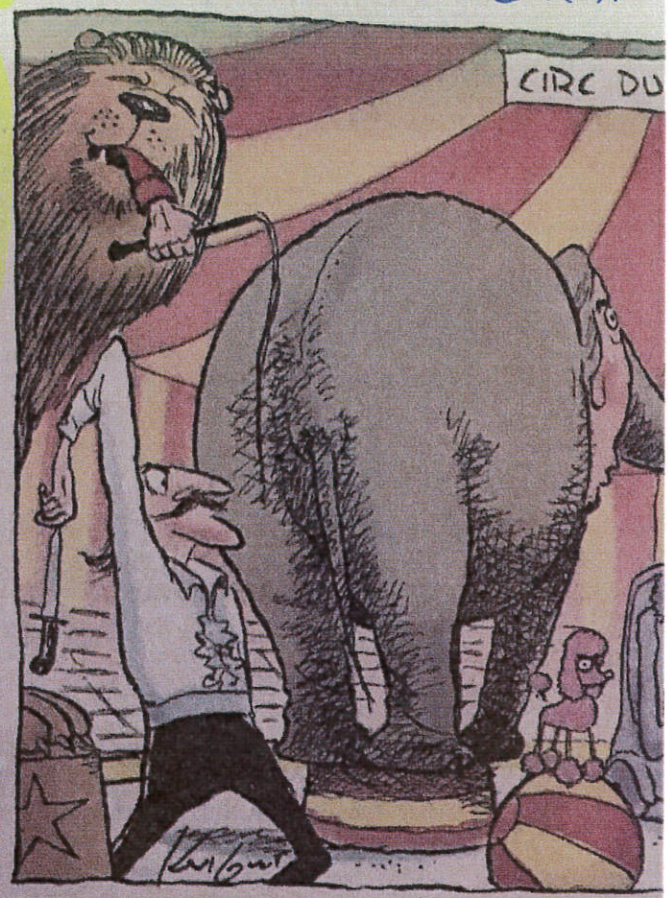
In mid-2018, we launched the Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy, building on the previous plan with more data including reference to CSIRO's TRANSIT modelling and more safety data.

I would like to personally thank RDA, as they not only initiated this significant project, but have continued to provide ongoing support in the role as secretariat and project manager over more than five years.

RDA has helped us to achieve one of the most significant commitments ever made to the northern and north west Queensland road network west of the Bruce Highway.

The Federal Government's investment to seal and upgrade strategic corridors will create jobs, reduce freight costs and help attract tourists and new businesses, building our sustainable future.

**COUNCILLOR JANE McNAMARA, Deputy chairwoman IQ-RAP Working Group and Flinders Shire Council Mayor.**



## TOURING CIRCUS LOST TO CANBERRA

SOMETIMES when I switch on TV and watch it for a while I switch it off.

Most of the content is just fake news, cooking shows or re-runs of old movies.

Back many years ago, when I grew up, there was no TV, no mobile phones.

We relied on radio and newspapers to tell us what was happening, around the country. You could rely on them to report the facts.

Back then, you would never hear a kid say, "I'm bored. I've got nothing to do".

Us lads were too busy climbing trees. I don't know what the girls got up to.

For entertainment we would go to the movies. If a circus came to town, we would go there.

I recall once, when a circus came, there was a news item about a monkey that had escaped. I think that was the first time I heard fake news.

I related the news item to an older friend. He said: "That may be true but don't you think they may have reported that so you will go along to their circus?"

You no longer hear about the circus touring around any more. One reason may be that the biggest circus in Australia today is located in Canberra.

There they have jugglers who can do acrobats that do backflips on prom. But the most important are the ringmasters.

They have lost the ability to make people jump when they don't want to.

So I would say to the political party, if you are a ringleader of our country, keep an eye on the circus.

But a large govt budget is hard to put back together.

**TOM ALEXANDER, I**

## FARMERS ARE SACRIFICIAL

WE all know, that the preferences from the farmers are now being kept by Jackie Trad's government in Queensland.

Like the hundreds of people who will jump if the Federal Government gets the keys to Queensland are delivered to the