



20 June 2017

Cr Rick Britton
Chair
Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan Working Group
IQ-RAP Secretariat
c/- RDA Townsville and North West Queensland
PO Box 1669
Townsville Qld 4810

Dear Cr Britton

Letter of support for the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP)

As follow up to a recent briefing on the relevance and importance of the inland road network to the agricultural sector, and in particular the horticultural sector, Brisbane Markets Limited offers its strong support for the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP).

Brisbane Markets Limited represents the needs of the wholesaling sector of the fresh fruit and vegetable industry based at the Brismark Markets, a marketing and distribution hub for fresh fruit and vegetables, in particular those wholesalers that operate out of the Brisbane Produce Market.

- Over 600,000,000 kilograms of produce is moved each year at a value of more than \$1.3 billion;
- Over 50 primary wholesalers operate at the site as well as an additional 90 support businesses;
- Up to 4,000 people work or do business at the Brisbane Markets on a daily basis; and
- In excess of 7,000 growers supply produce for sale at the Brisbane Markets.

A key driver for our business and the horticultural industry is having an efficient road network to deliver products from the farm gate to wholesale markets and then to consumers in the highest quality and fastest times possible to ensure returns on investment, sustainability of businesses and the retention of employees.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are perishable products and Queensland is a major producer servicing both domestic and international markets. Freight costs, effectiveness and efficiencies are obviously critical factors in ensuring that product quality is maintained throughout the supply chain.

Implementation of the IQ-RAP would improve the quality of the roads, their productivity and improve the resilience of connectivity for delivering fruit and vegetables in severe weather events, from regional Queensland to Brisbane and on to retail outlets across Queensland.

Brisbane Markets Limited commends the vision and effort of the collaborative partnership of 49 funding partners, including 33 local governments, five RDA committees and RACQ. This collaborative, strategic approach to road investment to get the best productivity and local employment outcomes from infrastructure investment is welcomed by industry.

We would like to recommend that IQ-RAP be endorsed and adopted as a matter of urgency in planning for future road network investment by all three levels of government.



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Brisbane Markets Limited strongly supports the IQ-RAP and its objectives to improve productivity and road safety outcomes on key freight routes, create more resilient connectivity through severe weather events and to catalyse local jobs through road works and business attraction on the strength of improved infrastructure.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Young
CEO