

28 February 2018

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance and Special Minister of State
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Financeminister@finance.gov.au

Dear Minister Cormann,

Re: **Civil Contractors Federation – Queensland (CCF QLD) support for the “Better Roads for Regional Development” pre-Budget submission** made on behalf of the IQ-RAP Working Group by RDA Townsville and North West Queensland.

The CCF QLD is the peak industry body for the civil construction industry in Queensland, representing the businesses that build roads, bridges and other major infrastructure. The civil construction industry is a critical part of Queensland’s economy both in creating employment and in enabling the Queensland’s exports to reach markets and Queensland businesses to function.

CCF QLD has been a long-term supporter of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) project for a number of reasons.

1. Industries require longer term planning for road infrastructure than current four year programs to ensure we are ready for new developments and can maximise the benefits.
2. Longer term planning will provide greater certainty for our members’ investments into employment, skills development and equipment.
3. Roads are the most-used transport infrastructure in Queensland and the nation. They are critical for access to ports, airports and rail and are often the only link between communities and their supplies of goods and services including health and education.
4. Investment into roads can improve safety outcomes and productivity for all users.
5. In rural and remote areas, investment into sealing roads can open up new opportunities for tourism and freight and logistics businesses.

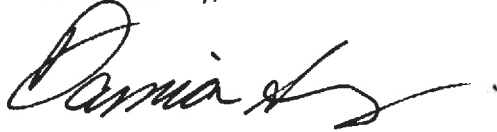
6. Sealing roads and improvements in the quality of road surfaces can make a significant difference to animal welfare and the quality of horticultural products when arriving at markets.

The plan has received praised by various peak industry bodies across multiple sectors including CCF QLD, because it makes good business sense.

As such, CCF QLD encourages you to fund the “Better Roads for Regional Development” pre-budget submission. From an industry perspective, the proposed research is highly practical and will be beneficial to many stakeholders involved in regional roads planning and programming across regional Australia.

I certainly look forward to your positive review of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Damian Long
Chief Executive Officer
Civil Contractors Federation – Queensland

Cc:

The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Senator the Hon Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

The Hon Dr John McVeigh, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government

Ms Glenys Schuntner, Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group c/ RDA Townsville and North West Queensland