



5 May 2016

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Deputy Leader of the House
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
M1.26
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CC: The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Treasurer
Senator, the Hon Fiona Nash, Minister for Regional Development
The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia
Senator, the Hon Matthew Canavan, Minister for Northern Australia

Dear Minister Chester,

The Central Highlands Development Corporation's (CHDC) role as the lead economic and tourism development agency is to advocate for the sustainable growth of the Central Highlands, Queensland; proactively market and promote the area as a 'region of choice' to those looking to visit, live, work, play and invest; and to stimulate business and infrastructure development and attraction.

The Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) will support the business of CHDC to boost economic development and job creation and support major projects being progressed in the Central Highlands. This includes the Yamala CQ Inland Hub and Agricultural Precinct, made up of a meat processing plant, an oilseed and grain processing facility, and a feedlot and saleyards, with scope to expand to accommodate additional supply chains.

More broadly, CHDC acknowledges and endorses the IQ-RAP as an initiative to enhance regional development in inland Queensland. We support the pre-budget submission of Regional Development Australia (RDA) Townsville and North West Queensland to the Australian Government to undertake economic analysis and business planning for IQ-RAP to progress further.

IQ-RAP has been developed by a Working Group which represents 47 funding partners, which consists of 33 local governments, including the Central Highlands Regional Council; 8 Regional Roads and Transport Groups; 4 RDA Committees; the Northern Queensland RDA Alliance; and RACQ. The plan will assist in prioritising investment into the inland Queensland road network to relieve congestion and reduce the mix of heavy and light vehicles on the coastal highways and to improve productivity and safety on the road network.

CHDC commends the work and efforts put into the IQ-RAP. We look forward to working with you to support RDA Townsville and North West Queensland to progress this plan further to contribute to the livability and overall economic vitality of regions and the state of Queensland.

Yours faithfully,

Sandra Hobbs
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