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15 January 2018

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

Dear Cr Britton 

**Re: Support for the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP)**

As follow up to my briefing on the IQ-RAP on 9 January, I wish to congratulate you and all IQ-RAP funding partners on taking a collaborative and strategic approach to supporting business growth and community sustainability across inland Queensland.

Hancock Prospecting's agricultural division is a major investor in Queensland, particularly with properties across the southern area of the state. Some of these agricultural properties support our Wagyu beef program, which was recently named one of the biggest Wagyu producers in the world.

As part of our operations, we rely heavily on an integrated logistical supply chain that supports greater economic activity.

Unsealed and poor quality roads and bridges increase our travel time, increase our maintenance costs and reduce our return on investment. Furthermore, severe weather events and their impact on the road freight network can cause major delays and costs that cannot be recovered. This influences our bottom line and ability to grow and employ more people in regional Queensland.

From my experience in government and the private sector, IQ-RAP is a well-researched and strategically prioritised plan that demonstrates financial investment will make a significant difference to rural and remote Queensland's industries and communities to sustain and grown them into the future. The improvements to safety, productivity and regional development that could occur with such investment would easily return a valuable benefit to the state and national economy, employment and sustainability of rural and remote communities.

Hancock Prospecting commends and supports the IQ-RAP and encourages all levels of government to continue to engage to develop policies, programs and funding to support its implementation.

Yours Sincerely

  
Adam Giles  
General Manager, External Relations Agriculture  
Hancock Prospecting