

19 February 2018

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance, Special Minister of State
PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: Financeminister@finance.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: 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.

My organisation has 76 members whom are critical players involved in infrastructure planning and delivery. Such members include major infrastructure asset owners Brisbane Airport Corporation, Port of Brisbane and Transurban and motoring advocacy group RACQ. The IAQ is committed to connecting, informing and developing Queensland’s infrastructure industry and plays a vital role to government by providing industry perspectives on current and emerging policies.

Industries and communities rely on infrastructure to grow and prosper. The road network within Queensland is vital for all industries and needs long term planning and a new framework when it comes to decision-making on regional roads. Cost benefit analysis that is suitable for capital city projects does not meet the needs or opportunities that regional areas can present.

We are strong supporters of the IQ-RAP project and urge you to fund the above-mentioned pre-budget submission that has been made on behalf of 28 local governments, five RDA committees and RACQ that have been partners in the IQ-RAP project since 2015.

To take the IQ-RAP forward, the Working Group requires \$2 million in funding to do more intensive economic and social benefits analysis that will inform all levels of governments to assist with policies, programs and investment decision-making in regional areas.

I attach a summary of the pre-Budget submission and look forward to your investment in this “Better Roads for Regional Development” initiative.

Yours faithfully



Steve Abson
Chief Executive Officer

Cc:
The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Ms Glenys Schuntner, Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group c/ RDA Townsville and North West Queensland