

5 April 2018

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister *Michael*

Re: Support for the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) and Pre-Budget Submission

As you are aware, the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is the peak representative organisation of the Queensland minerals and energy sector. QRC's membership encompasses minerals and energy exploration, production, and processing companies and associated service companies. QRC works on behalf of members to ensure Queensland's resources are developed profitably and competitively, in a socially and environmentally sustainable way. Queensland resource industry is fundamentally a regional industry, which is why the Action Plan is of such interest to QRC members.

QRC writes to you in support of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) and the proposed economic and social benefits analysis as put forward in a pre-budget submission earlier this year. We understand the IQ-RAP Working Group, through RDA Townsville and North West Queensland as the Secretariat, is seeking \$2 million over two to three years to undertake the analysis to answer questions put forward to them by governments to help build the strategic business case for future road network programming and investment.

Queensland's resources sector now provides one in every six dollars in the Queensland economy, sustains one in eight Queensland jobs, and supports more than 16,400 businesses across the State – with almost 7000 businesses in the Greater Brisbane region – all from 0.1 percent of Queensland's land mass.

The road network is critical to our industry and members. A resilient, safe and fit-for-purpose road network is vital for the delivery of over-mass equipment, other products and services as inputs to members' operations; it is vital for the access our workforce requires; it is critically important for the export and distribution of our products to markets.

We believe that the road network should be viewed as a critical enabler for industries to be productive and compete in globally competitive markets and should be invested in as such and as a major asset to catalyse future economic growth.

QRC regards the IQ-RAP as an excellent example of local Government leadership. The plan recognises that Queensland enjoyed a decentralised regional economy where roads are often a critical part of the logistics chain for both inputs and exporting products to market. QRC commends the working group on their mature approach to identifying the best framework for investing in a true network of inland roads for Queensland. This strategic whole-of-state approach offers the potential to maximise the economic prosperity of inland Queensland which will contributing to Australia's productivity, quality of life, safety and equity outcomes.

We thank you in anticipation of your support for IQ-RAP and the regional economies and industries it supports. In particular, we look forward to your advice in regard to your level of support for the pre-budget submission to complete critical analysis to take this initiative forward.

If you require any further information, QRC's contact is Andrew Barger who can be contacted on (07) 3316 2502 or alternatively via email at andrewb@qrc.org.au

Yours sincerely



Ian Macfarlane
Chief Executive