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\$730 MILLION INVESTMENT UPGRADE TO RURAL AND REGIONAL ROADS

The Australian Government \$730 million investment to upgrade rural and regional roads proves how important the industries of west and north Queensland are to the future of our nation, according to the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) Working Group.

The Australian Government announced today this investment is expected to seal or upgrade around 700 kilometres of road, the equivalent of building a new road from the Gold Coast to Rockhampton.

IQ-RAP Working Group, Chair, Cr Rick Britton said this has been a huge win for the region.

"What can be achieved when working collaboratively, this shows what can be accomplished from the grass roots up" Cr Britton said.

RDA CEO, Glenys Schuntner welcomed this significant investment. "This project has demonstrated what strong leadership, a vision and an enduring collaborative effort across local governments, RDA committees and partners like RACQ can achieve for the benefit of regional Queensland communities, local businesses and industries like tourism, agriculture and mining."

The IQ-RAP has been delivered by a partnership of 28 local governments, 5 RDA Committees and RACQ.

"This road funding truly reflects the importance of regional Queensland to the national economy".

The investments will concentrate on strategic corridors that will help spur new business and new jobs in North Queensland, including:

- Townsville to Tennant Creek \$200 million;
- Yeppoon to Mount Isa \$190 million;
- Townsville to Roma \$100 million; and
- Cairns to the Northern Territory border (Savannah Way) \$50 million

The IQ-RAP Working Group looks forward to the roll out of funding to create jobs, and benefits for communities and business across the north and north west regions.

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