

7 November 2017

R 10.11.17



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

Dear Councillor Britton

**Re: Support for IQ-RAP**

Transport infrastructure in Australia is at a crossroads. Ageing infrastructure, mounting maintenance costs, a lack of new investment or even a clear strategy is throttling agricultural development.

Farming takes place in every corner of our vast continent - often far removed from arterial roads and freight routes. This leaves the sector perilously beholden to freight costs, as we move produce that 'last mile' to link in with major supply chains. These 'last mile' linkages can often contribute disproportionately to the overall cost of getting produce to market.

Our organisation has received a briefing on the IQ-RAP project and is impressed by the strong partnership of 49 funding partners who have worked collaboratively; the strategic and long-term nature of the planning; and most importantly the way in which the IQ-RAP prioritises road projects based on multi-criteria analysis to deliver economic and social benefits over the next 18 years.

The IQ-RAP project is significant in its scale across 19% of Australia. We congratulate all partners involved. Our organisation believes that investment into well-researched, prioritised roads and bridges such as those in IQ-RAP will make a significant positive impact on the safety, productivity and resilience of the road networks for all users.

Our organisation commends and strongly 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fiona Simson".

**FIONA SIMSON**  
President