

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTH WEST STAR  
29.5.18

## IRRIGATING THE WEST SOLVES NATIONAL FUEL SHORTAGE

Dear Editor,

Irrigation schemes from our Gulf and mid-west towns have grown dramatically closer with the "acute national petrol and diesel supply shortages".

The NRMA (four times bigger than Queensland's RACQ) reported fuel supply was down to 23 days.

Last week, Minister Frydenberg said it's now (three years later) at 20 days. When it hits 16 days, panic-buying and chaos will follow.

Hughenden's HIPCO board have met this week, with construction contractors to finalise a proposal to go to Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).

The NAIF was allocated \$5,000 million after a promise in the 2013 election, but after five-and-a-half years, not one cent of it has been spent.

Hughenden will provide NAIF with the template for Richmond, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Normanton, Georgetown and Ravenshoe.

The current Qld Government is the most anti-development, anti-jobs, anti-prosperity government in Qld's history and will never agree to we "the people" actually owning the land - being able to use and diversify it for the greater wealth of Qld.

The shrinkage of national fuel storage has led to the Federal Parliament's National Security Committee demanding action within six months. HIPCO's proposed 8,000 hectares of irrigation with 3,000 devoted to Canola and Rapeseed would ensure an annual three million litres of biodiesel.

So this puts the irrigation under the Federal Government, who is now under real pressure to act.

God bless you all,

**Hon Bob Katter MP**

**Federal Member for Kennedy**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR ✱

I applaud the Federal Government for



**SUNSET OVER ISA:** Last week produced some stunner sunsets as the nights get colder in the west. Photo - Kelly Butterworth.

its commitment to regional infrastructure announced in the federal budget.

The Roads of Strategic Importance initiative of \$3.5 billion over 10 years, aligns with the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) advocacy objectives of securing more long term funding programs for regional road networks. This will ensure greater productivity, safety and more resilient connectivity, while opening up of new opportunities, such as tourism and regional sustainability.

According to the Treasurer, Scott Morrison, this initiative to upgrade key freight routes will improve road reliability and better connect key sectors, such as agriculture and mining, to export markets, and better connect communities to essential services.

These are the exact key points the IQ-RAP Working Group has continually raised with both state and federal governments, since the launch of the IQ-RAP in February 2016.

And these are also the reasons why the IQ-RAP was the result of a strategic alliance of 33 local governments, 8 Regional Roads

and Transport Groups, Regional Development Australia committees and RACQ.

We have said all along that increasing the accessibility of the road network in regional areas, is not just simply about upgrading roads, but also about boosting regional economies, local jobs, attracting investment and better connecting communities.

It is vital that all levels of government put more focus on the regions to keep our regions sustainable and prosperous for this generation, and the generations to come.

**Cr Rick Britton**

**Chair IQ-RAP Working Group  
Mayor of Boulia Shire Council**

## FACEBOOK

Last week we reported on the three Mt Isa boys who launched their own fishing online TV show, and when we shared the story with you on Facebook, it turns out you loved it as much as we did!

**Jodie Kenned:** Excellent footage! Well done!

**Jodie Emmett:** Too deadly these Isa fellas!

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Preference is given to letters that are less than 300 words. Letters must include the author's name (for publication), address and daytime contact number. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

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