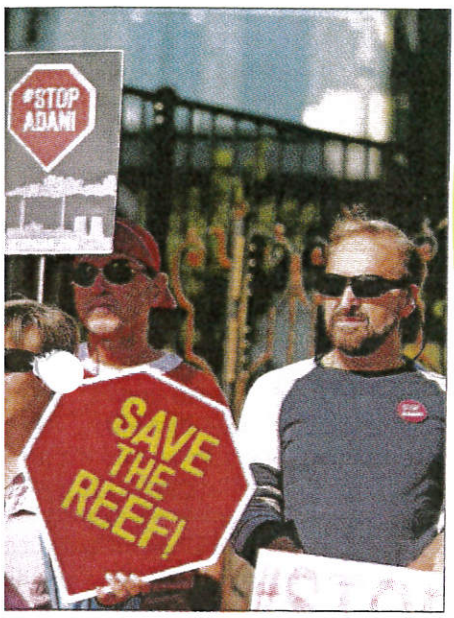


...group of farmers showing
...farming is so important to them and

- **Sam Decker, central Queensland beef producer**

LETTER *J*



ward protecting our lands and

horizontal and vertical growth within our
ions.
The state government has imposed laws
all of us, that will not allow these oppor-
tunities for agriculture to be taken up and
diminished for our region's growth, jobs and
economy. These laws will greatly impede
environmentally sustainable agriculture.
Growers are meeting environmental
compliance demands, particularly Great
Barrier Reef regulation obligations, under
the arcane BMP, the industry best manage-
ment practice program.
Respect is a two-way street and we have
earned in Mackay that we are respectful,
but it is the state government's turn to
show some respect and true consultation
to create a positive pathway to manage
diverse vegetation on Queensland agricul-
tural properties. It's time to strike a balance
between environmental sustainability and
cultural production for the benefit of all
Queenslanders.

**Canegrowers Mackay CEO, Kerry
Lamb**

LONG TERM ROAD FUNDING TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

I applaud the federal government for its
commitment to regional infrastructure
announced in the federal budget.
The Roads of Strategic Importance ini-
tiative of \$3.5 billion over 10 years, aligns
with the Inland Queensland Roads Action
Plan (IQ-RAP) advocacy objectives of se-
curing 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 federal 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 mar-
kets, 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, eight regional road
and transport groups, Regional Develop-
ment 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 commu-
nities.

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

**- Boulia Shire Council Mayor and IQ-RAP
working group chair, Rick Britton**

*Got something you would like to get off
your chest? It could be your thoughts on
this week's state budget or how the new
native vegetation management laws are
impacting your business. Whatever it is,
we'd love to hear from you. Submit your
letter to the editor to [melody.labinsky@
fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:melody.labinsky@fairfaxmedia.com.au)*

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