

R. 26-4-17
Reg.



SENATOR BARRY O'SULLIVAN

LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Rice. Let me know if there is anything I can do to support you all on this Rice issue. Bob

18 April 2017

Cr Rick Britton
Chair Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan
PO Box 1669
Townsville QLD 4810

Dear Councillor Britton

Re: Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 March 2017. I found our meeting in Canberra insightful and beneficial and I do applaud the work that you and the working group have been doing in regard to this very important initiative.

Local knowledge and expertise plays an important role, particularly over this large and diverse area which services such valuable and varied industry.

In my role as a Senator for Queensland, the importance of rural and regional development surrounding economic delivery and sustainability is very high on my agenda. I will continue to advocate daily for the delivery of resources into our regions.

As you would be aware, the \$100 million Northern Australia Beef Roads Program was proposed to make targeted upgrades to key roads necessary for transporting cattle to improve the reliability, productivity and resilience of cattle supply chains in northern Australia, thereby reducing freight costs and strengthening links to markets. This is a great initiative and one that I support completely.

The Northern Australia Roads Program comprises a \$600 million commitment to enable upgrades to high priority roads in northern Australia essential to the movement of people and freight to support the north's economic development. Again, this is a program that has my full support.

Having a proactive approach to further strengthening and improving efficiency in Queensland's sustainable northern road network is imperative. The continued development and finalisation of high priority business case proposals will aid the fast tracking and implementation of projects. It is encouraging to see Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) working toward this end result.

I would like to be kept abreast of further policy development from IQ-RAP to see what additional support I may be able to provide in the future.

Yours faithfully

Barry O'Sullivan
Senator for Queensland