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Long way to go on our roads

I AM pleased to see that road infrastructure has become one of the top priorities for the State Government in its Advancing North Queensland plan. In our highly decentralised state roads are a vital key.

An accessible and safe road network is crucial for regional areas, for the delivery of goods and services, freight movement and the tourism industry. However, over the years there has been a lack of sufficient investment for road maintenance and upgrades.

The inland Queensland region continues to secure much less than its fair share of funding in relation to its economic contribution to the nation.

While the State Budget delivered some funding to roads in inland Queensland, there is still a long way to go. For example, 3000km and 300 bridges across the inland network are not up to scratch. These alarming statistics were revealed in the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP). The IQ-RAP prioritises road upgrades over the next 18 years and is designed to assist stakeholders and governments to assess and prioritise projects for funding to ensure maximum economic benefits.

It is important that regional roads are a priority for all levels of government, in order to drive economic growth and jobs, for this generation and generations to come. We look forward to further commitments to the regional Queensland road network, both in the north and inland areas.

PETER MAGUIRE
Chair, Working Group
Inland Queensland Roads
Action Plan

Young High to mark big 40

THE Young High School 40-year school reunion will be held

Democracy is not made at party

THE latest media reports put the election at a historic dead heat.

I wonder why this should be a surprise to the head crunchers of both major parties.

I have been involved in three political parties over my life. I have left them all because all they really want you to do is show up on election day and hand out how to vote cards.

Very little in modern politics is grassroots any more.

Local branches will get instructions on who needs to go where, yet that branch, either Liberal or Labor, will not take on board resolutions, suggestions and policy recommendations from

grassroots branches. You are just a worker, not part of a political force.

Modern politics is run from Canberra and Brisbane back rooms.

Everyone is talking about our proposed stadium, for every single yes, there is a no to this.

Everyone is talking about dams and water, yet both parties have nothing to offer in this arena.

The Greens will never support a dam, instead they want us to recycle water at great cost.

They say a gravity fed water supply has not been proven.

As far as I know gravity has been around for a while now, and it has al-

ways worked up until now. Greens actually know a time to stop working, then my goodness need to book a flight to Mars.

Malcolm Turnbull asked us put in a protest vote, "It is not that he said.

Well if we don't do it now when will the timing be right changed the rules for the Senate (the help of the Greens), telling lion Australians that their vote worth the same as a vote for the parties.

Yet when you look at all the minor parties, you will see that they are made up of ordinary

