



## Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

*Driving Productivity  
in Australia's Transport Network*

### **MEDIA RELEASE – 21 March 2016 IQ-RAP key to creating more regional jobs**

The Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) ticks all the boxes on the Queensland Government's commitment to economic development and employment in the regions, according to the IQ-RAP Working Group.

The Queensland Government's Working Queensland Cabinet Committee will visit Mount Isa tomorrow to discuss local issues and projects.

IQ-RAP Working Group Chair Peter Maguire said the IQ-RAP supports the Queensland Government's strategy to drive economic growth and employment.

"The IQ-RAP project is a regional economic development initiative to create jobs, drive productivity gains and attract investment," Mr Maguire said.

"The IQ-RAP itself is a planning and decision making tool to support investment into the inland Queensland road network."

The IQ-RAP identifies the road network and prioritises upgrades in the western and eastern zones of Queensland.

IQ-RAP Secretariat – Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA) Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said the plan identifies that \$5 billion of works are required over 18 years.

"The IQ-RAP approach of seeking to capture value from infrastructure investment from a whole-of-government perspective aligns with the State Infrastructure Plan," Ms Schuntner said.

The State Infrastructure Plan states "the government will prioritise projects and initiatives that support connectedness and freight productivity in regional areas. The movement of freight is a critical activity driven by industry, population growth and consumer needs, and is fundamental in supporting economic growth".

Ms Schuntner said the Working Queensland Cabinet Committee's visit to Mount Isa is a great opportunity to showcase significant projects.

"It's vital the Queensland Government supports industries with infrastructure development to create jobs in the region, when unemployment is at 7.6% in Townsville and North West Queensland, which is above the state average of 6.3%," she said.

"The inland road network is of vital significance to a number of industries, including; agriculture, freight and logistics industry, mining, gas and tourism.

"The vision of the IQ-RAP is to increase the quality and accessibility of the road network, which will create jobs, drive productivity and attract investment."

The IQ-RAP is a bipartisan project funded by 33 local governments (including Mount Isa City Council and North West Councils), 8 Regional Roads and Transport Groups, 4 RDA Committees, the NQ RDA Alliance and RACQ.