



Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

*Driving Productivity
in Australia's Transport Network*

MEDIA RELEASE – 1 February 2016

Driving Productivity in Australia's Transport Network

A new report has revealed Queensland's inland road network needs to undergo significant upgrades to help drive economic growth and productivity in Australia.

The Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) identifies the road network and prioritises upgrades over the next 15 years and beyond.

The plan was developed by consultants Harrison Infrastructure Group on behalf of the IQ-RAP Working Group representing a strategic alliance of 33 councils, Regional Development Australia committees, eight Regional Roads and Transport Groups and RACQ.

The IQ-RAP was launched in Charters Towers today by the IQ-RAP Secretariat - Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner and IQ-RAP Partner Charters Towers Mayor Cr Frank Beveridge.

Ms Schuntner said 52% or \$140 billion value of Queensland's Gross State Product (GSP) is generated outside Brisbane each year.

"The inland Queensland road network is of vital significance to key industries such as mining, gas, agriculture, tourism and the freight and logistics industry, which supports the wholesale and retail sectors," Ms Schuntner said.

"A key objective of this plan is to establish a methodology for prioritisation of road network investments in the western and eastern zones of Queensland, which is based on: economic value, strategic intent, safety, access and social value."

Mayor Cr Frank Beveridge said the release of the IQ-RAP was an important step in assisting to prioritise road upgrades.

"The IQ-RAP will be used to inform both the Australian and Queensland Governments of road funding priorities across 33 regional, rural and remote local government areas," Cr Beveridge said.

IQ-RAP has identified that over 3,000 kilometres of road and more than 300 bridges in regional and rural Queensland require upgrades to bring them up to standard.

This is the first time a strategic level analysis and prioritisation has been undertaken on a network of around 16,000 kilometres of rural roads.

Analysis of existing road conditions against 'fit for purpose' standards has identified \$5 billion of works required over 18 years.

The plan covers an area of 1.4 million km², which equates to 82% of Queensland's total area.