

## MEDIA RELEASE - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

## **Major parties support IQ-RAP**

Major political parties have recognised the significance of rural and regional roads, with both the LNP and One Nation throwing their support behind the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP).

The LNP has stated it supports IQ-RAP - because they want to build the roads and bridges Queensland needs.

The LNP has also stated 'A Tim Nicholls-led LNP Government will use IQ-RAP to inform funding and prioritisation of road projects in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP)'.

One Nation has also pledged to support the IQ-RAP in its policy document, which states One Nation will 'work with IQ-RAP partnerships, Federal Government and State Government to prioritise the scope of works needed to repair our road infrastructure through a regional conference'.

IQ-RAP Working Group Chair Rick Britton said the IQ-RAP ticks all the boxes for economic development and employment in the regions.

"We welcome the election promises from both the LNP and One Nation to support the IQ-RAP and commitment to upgrade and maintain Queensland's rural and regional roads."

Cr Britton said he would also like to see an election commitment from all other parties to support the IQ-RAP.

"The IQ-RAP can create economic growth and employment opportunities outside South-East Queensland, including in agriculture and tourism," Cr Britton said.

"The IQ-RAP is an initiative to create jobs, improve productivity for businesses along supply chains, open up new tourism opportunities, ensure better road safety outcomes and build more resilient connectivity in regional Queensland."

The IQ-RAP is a strategic alliance of 49 funding partners, including 33 local governments, eight Regional Roads and Transport Groups, five Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees and RACQ.

"The 33 local government partners, across 13 state electorates, invested in the development of this plan given the importance of this road network to their councils, communities and businesses and future sustainability," Cr Britton said.

The IQ-RAP is the first of its type in Australia, in that it identifies upgrades on a rural road network of around 16,000 kilometres over the next 18 years. The plan has identified that over 3,000 kilometres of road and more than 300 bridges require upgrades to meet 'fit for purpose' standards for business and tourism across the region.

For commitments made by other political parties so far, go to <a href="www.rdatanwq.org.au/iq-rap">www.rdatanwq.org.au/iq-rap</a>

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