

EMBARGOED till 12:01AM, 26th February 2020

MEDIA RELEASE – 26 February 2020

IQ-RAP makes the National Infrastructure Priority List

The strategic inland Queensland road network has been named as a nationally significant priority on Infrastructure Australia's *2020 Infrastructure Priority List*. This is a major achievement for Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA), the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) and all 34 funding partners.

RDA developed and has provided secretariat and project management to IQ-RAP since 2013. The project covers nearly 70% of Queensland (16% of Australia) across 28 local government areas. Partners include the 28 local governments, five Regional Development Australia committees and RACQ.

The IQ-RAP vision is to increase the quality and accessibility of the inland Queensland road network, contributing to Australia's productivity, quality of life, safety and equity outcomes.

RDA Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said "RDA made a submission to Infrastructure Australia in August 2019 to have the IQ-RAP recommendations considered in the Infrastructure Priority List. The recognition of the inland Queensland road network as being nationally significant is a major win. This is the first year an RDA-originated project has made the Infrastructure Priority List, and IQ-RAP is one of three RDA originated projects listed in 2020."

"IQ-RAP recommendations and the advocacy of all partners has led to more than \$1 billion of funding towards roads and bridge upgrades as recommended in the 2016 Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan and 2018 Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy that were presented to the Australian and Queensland governments. Funding has been secured across a variety of programs including the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program, Northern Australia Roads Program and Northern Australia Beef Roads Program."

"Having the inland Queensland road network recognized as being nationally significant was an important goal of IQ-RAP" said Glenys Schuntner, "as it will support the 28 local governments to bid for funding to upgrade roads and bridges of strategic importance to businesses and communities".

Infrastructure Australia's *Infrastructure Priority List* is the authoritative list of nationally significant infrastructure investments Australia needs over the next 15 years. The Priority List provides independent, evidence-based advice to governments and industry on the projects that will most benefit Australia's communities.

RDA CEO Glenys Schuntner will attend the Launch of Infrastructure Australia *Infrastructure Priority List 2020* in Canberra on 26th February with the IQ-RAP Working Group Deputy Chairs, Cr Jane McNamara and Cr Tom Gilmore.





RDA's Infrastructure Priority List submission summary is available to download via the RDA website, under Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) (www.rdanwq.org.au).

The *Infrastructure Priority List* will be available at <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/> See page 155 for "Queensland inland road network upgrade".

Media Contact: Glenys Schuntner 07 4410 3655

