

Regional communities rely on roads to be sustainable.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Industry and the travelling public need a level of connectivity and reliability and safe driving conditions on links between towns, and the predictability of being able to undertake a journey, even in wet weather. Long travel times between remote communities leads to fatigue which becomes deadlier in a less forgiving roads environment that has narrow deal widths, inadequate sight distance, lack of overtaking opportunities or unsealed and single lane sealed roads. The road deaths in regional and remote areas are disproportionately high relative to the rest of Australia as a result.

Remote communities rely on transport routes for access to specialist health services and education services that are typically found in larger population centres along the coast. This highlights the need for safe, reliable road transport infrastructure to access services.

“Families in rural and remote areas rely heavily on the road network, and as such they deserve to have a higher level of safety than current levels provide. It is the experience of many rural and remote communities that better roads improve access to education through the provision of safe and reliable bus runs and routes to boarding school, all of which result in keeping families in small communities and therefore supporting the sustainability of rural and remote schools, industry and small business” said Tammie Irons, President of Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association Queensland. ICPA QLD represents and advocates for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Queensland.

Everyone uses roads in some way. For business and industry, tourism, community and family, roads in regional and remote inland Queensland are critical. Business of all sizes, throughout remote and rural Queensland rely on roads to run their core business. This is no truer for David Glasson, of FuelCal Engineering.

“As a business person, who travels through the roads of remote and regional Queensland to operate, I rely on these roads to get me to and from work safely and efficiently. I know I speak on behalf of all business who use roads in Inland Queensland that while there has been progress in the completion of sealing and upgrading of some major highways, investment into inland road networks has fallen well behind the needs of business and the greater community” said Mr Glasson.

IQ-RAP Partners have requested commitments from each Party to endorse the Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy, invest \$200m into currently unfunded priorities across the 28 local government areas, and progress detailed planning for the identified priorities.

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

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