

1 September 2017



Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

*Driving Productivity
in Australia's Transport Network*

Mr Robbie Katter MP
Member for Mount Isa
PO Box 1968
Mount Isa QLD 4825
Mount.Isa@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Katter

RE: Offering IQ-RAP evidence to inform the development of the Katter's Australian Party Roads Policy

On behalf of the IQ-RAP Working Group, I would like to thank you for your ongoing interest in the IQ-RAP and taking the time to meet with the Working Group and myself again in Brisbane earlier this year.

The IQ-RAP Working Group would like to take this opportunity to offer our plan and evidence base to you for your development of the policy platform for building roads and bridges in regional Queensland.

I note the Katter's Australian Party has listed 'urgent action on roads of national/state significance' as part of Projects of State/National Significance, and the reasons listed as to why it is needed, including; economic development, facilitating competitive agricultural access to market, improved safety and providing an alternate route to the Bruce Highway during wet season – are the same as the IQ-RAP objectives.

As discussed with you in previous meetings, 33 local government IQ-RAP partners, across 15 state electorates, invested in the project and development of the plan given the importance of the road network to their councils, communities and businesses and future sustainability. This strategic and collaborative partnership has delivered IQ-RAP to provide well-researched, objective evidence as input to policy.

Since February 2016 we have engaged extensively with leaders of peak industry bodies and continue to receive very positive feedback on the relevance and importance of this project to their industries – such as mining (eg Queensland Resource Council), agriculture (eg Queensland Farmers' Federation), tourism (eg Queensland Tourism Industry Council), transport and logistics (eg Queensland Trucking Association and Queensland Transport and Logistics Council).

The Working Group would welcome a written response with advice on your level of support for the IQ-RAP.

We would welcome further support, such as the following:

1. **Inclusion of IQ-RAP in the Katter's Australian Party policy platform for the next Queensland election** – and naturally we would be happy to work with your policy staff on this. We can make available the evidence from the IQ-RAP which identifies and prioritises road and bridge improvements across the strategic freight and tourism routes over an area of 1.4 million km² covered by 33 local governments making up 82% of Queensland. Given electoral and budget cycles, we could break the forecast investments down to a 10 year plan like the Bruce Highway or to a four to five year plan. We can also demonstrate that local governments and local businesses are usually the most cost competitive suppliers of the types of road construction required in IQ-RAP delivery, ensuring value for money and local on-going jobs. This is particularly the case in remote and very remote areas.

2. A letter of support for IQ-RAP addressed to the Chair, Cr Rick Britton
3. A letter of support and advocacy to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon Darren Chester to support IQ-RAP through the funding of economic and social benefits analysis to build the strategic business case to take it forward in programming with copies to: the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and the Minister for Regional Development Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
4. Mention of support for IQ-RAP in newsletters and other communications

Thank you for your consideration of IQ-RAP to support economic development and create jobs in Queensland. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0407 122 430 or through our Secretariat Glenys Schuntner on 07 4410 3655, 0417 198 284 or ceo@rdanwq.org.au in regard to any questions.

Yours sincerely



Cr Eric (Rick) Britton
Chair, IQ-RAP Working Group

CC: Member for Dalrymple Shane Knuth MP
Deputy Chair IQ-RAP Working Group, Cr Jane McNamara
Deputy Chair IQ-RAP Working Group, Cr Tom Gilmore
Working Group Member, Mr Greg Miskowycz, Principal Traffic and Safety Engineer, RACQ
IQ-RAP Partner, Mr Paul Turner, Chief Communications Officer, RACQ
Secretariat IQ-RAP Working Group and CEO RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, Ms Glenys Schuntner

Encl: Updated IQ-RAP Overview June 2017