

IQ-RAP

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTH QLD  
REGISTER  
17.8.17

## COLLABORATION BEHIND HANN HIGHWAY

It is great to see the state and federal governments working together to provide funding for crucial regional roads, such as the sealing of the Hann Highway.

Work recently started on the \$53 million upgrade of the Hann Highway, which will see the final 36 kilometre stretch sealed over the next three years. Sealing the highway will help all businesses and tourists save many hours of travel between far north Queensland and southern markets in Victoria and South Australia.

While this road project will deliver a more reliable freight and tourist route for the north, it will also provide hundreds of much needed jobs for the region over the next few years.

This road project has come to fruition thanks to the hard work and lobbying of the Hann Highway Action Group, the Flinders and Etheridge Shire Councils and Flinders Mayor Jane McNamara, who is also a member of the Northern Australia Advisory Council.

As Chair of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) I know all too well what can be achieved when regional councils come together in a united voice and with a common goal to improve regional sustainability, productivity and safety on Queensland's inland road network.

The IQ-RAP prioritises upgrades over the next 18 years and is designed to assist governments and stakeholders to assess and prioritise projects for funding. The plan identified over 3,000 kilometres of road require upgrades, which included the Hann Highway.

I am pleased to see state and federal governments recognising that regional roads are the key to economic growth in the north and I look forward to further commitments to Queensland's inland road network.

- Cr Rick Britton, Chair IQ-RAP Working Group, Mayor of Boulia Shire Council

## BOYCOTT J-BAS

Recently on ABC radio North Coast NSW, a person from the cattle council or some equally obscure organisation, confirmed that, as far as J-Bas is concerned, the only people who really might get some value out of the new scheme are the people involved in the live cattle export business.

It will serve no other useful purpose.

That is not to say that the concept of a bio security plan is not a good idea for any property, but J-Bas, with its expensive and unreliable testing requirements, plus the fact that John's disease has no effect on meat quality, is a separate issue.

Why have the two been combined?

It means that all livestock producers will have to jump through the hoops just to save the bacon of the live cattle industry.

There is a more serious cloud hanging over the live cattle export industry anyway in the form of the animal rights lobby who are like a dog with a bone on this issue and they aren't going to go away.

If the polities cave in on the live cattle export issue, J-Bas will be irrelevant. The easiest way for all the other players in the cattle industry to rid themselves of this ill-conceived proposal is to simply boycott the whole thing.

The proponents make much of the fact that the program is "voluntary". What this means is that there is no legal requirement for anyone to take part. If nobody takes part, the whole thing will wither on the vine and disappear.

- Graham Turner

## FLINDERS COUNCIL HAS VISION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

I would like to congratulate the Flinders Shire Council on its vision for economic growth in its region and securing \$4 million in Australian Government funding to construct a recreational lake in Hughenden.

The council was one of three local projects in our RDA region to share in more than \$14 million under the new Building Better

Regions Fund. Hughenden will have four recreationing and water: better facilities: tourism draw tourists will visit.

I would also like to see Richmond Ear securing BBRI installation of children's play equipment.

The Australian Government should open another for-profit organization of identifying would benefit - Frank Bevan RDA Townsville

## QCWA POWER

Queensland is power district, rackin and looking for the pleasure of meetings of the rie-Long Pock branches of the from Upper St since their bra Halifax ladies anniversary. I Beach have formed their the QCWA is Queensland. branch went years ago, but women have it going and across the He: welcome to jc serving the lo are available i

- Hinchinb

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