



Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance
Special Minister of State
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Financeminister@finance.gov.au

Dear Minister

Re: Support for the “Better Roads for Regional Development” pre-Budget submission made on behalf of the IQ-RAP Working Group by RDA Townsville and North West Queensland

We are an agri-tech start up company introducing mobile abattoirs to Australia. Our modus operandi is based on a static hub (butcher or processing unit) which is serviced by refrigerated meat vehicles attending the Mobile Slaughter Unit (MSU) on farms in a 150km radius from the hub. We are looking to establish a hub in South East Queensland, and are considering two further locations near the Gulf of Carpentaria and north west of Townsville.

We have been briefed on the IQ-RAP project and wish to demonstrate our support of their pre-budget submission. It is of high relevance and importance for our business and others looking to invest in regional Queensland. Without a fit-for-purpose reliable road network we will not be able to take our mobile abattoirs and meat vehicles to where they are needed by properties in rural areas.

As per recent research commissioned by AgriFutures (Research Activities on Rural Roads), there is a need for further investigation into the modelling used for investments into rural roads that support agriculture including the cattle industry as one of Australia’s largest industries and export sectors. The nine proposed research projects will help build wider economic and social benefits data that can inform all regional roads planners and funders. We understand the Working Group requires a modest \$2 million in funding support. We note the agricultural industry alone is worth \$60 billion per annum, hence the opportunity to increase productivity in the future is far greater than this modest investment.

We look forward to your positive response to the “Better Roads for Regional Development” initiative.

Yours faithfully

Chris Balazs, Founder and CEO
Merissa Martinez, Founder and Chair
FarmGate MSU Pty Ltd

Cc: The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au; minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au; The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources minister.littleproud@agriculture.gov.au; The Hon Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia senator.canavan@aph.gov.au; The Hon Dr John McVeigh, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government minister.mcveigh@regional.gov.au; Ms Glenys Schuntner, Secretariat, IQ-RAP Working Group c/ RDA Townsville and North West Queensland ceo@rdanwq.org.au