



MICHELLE LANDRY MP
Federal Member for Capricornia

**WORKING HARD
FOR CAPRICORNIA**

Ref: 2018020242

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann

Minister for Finance

Special Minister of State

PO Box 6100

Senate

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

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

As the Member for Capricornia, with offices in Rockhampton and Sarina in regional Queensland, I have met with the IQ-RAP Working Group and Secretariat and wish to demonstrate my support of their pre-budget submission.

As several of my local governments have been involved in the development of IQ-RAP, I have a strong interest in this project and am convinced that it can achieve a wide range of government objectives in our region and more broadly including job creation, closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, improving productivity for all businesses and especially exporters, creating more resilient networks, improving safety and opening up new opportunities to diversify local economies through tourism.

This is a first of its kind project in terms of scale of collaboration, coverage, timelines and potential impact on regional sustainability. 33 regional Queensland councils have partnered together with five RDA committees and RACQ to collaborate on developing the strategic freight and tourism planning tool for the 82% of the state that lies west of the Bruce Highway and outside South East Queensland.

After the initial launch of the IQ-RAP in 2016, IQ-RAP is now being updated and is the basis for the proposed research projects to inform the business case for IQ-RAP, and other regional roads planning across Australia.

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Mirani



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To take the IQ-RAP forward, the Working Group requires \$2 million in funding support to complement their work with more economic and social data.

This will help form the business case and answer questions that have been put forward to them by parliamentarians and funding decision-makers. For example, where specifically will the 31,500 jobs be created; how will this help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage across rural and remote areas; what will be the productivity gains on each road and bridge upgrade that is critical for freight movements; what tourism opportunities can be leveraged from upgrades to roads and safety.

As regional Queensland stakeholders have already contributed \$400,000 in cash and nearly \$400,000 in-kind to this project to date, I recommend that the Australian Government fund the \$2 million required to deliver the nine research projects that will benefit not only local governments in Queensland but other regional organisations across Australia that are involved in planning and funding regional roads.

I attach a summary of the pre-Budget submission and look forward to your positive response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Landry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Landry MP
Federal Member for Capricornia