



31 January 2020

Hon Jackie Trad MP  
Deputy Premier  
Treasurer  
Minister for Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
GPO Box 611  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
[treasurer@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:treasurer@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer

#### **Queensland State Budget 2020/21 – Priority Support for Western Queensland Communities**

We write to you under the banner of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils – the 21 councils forming the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC); the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD); and the South West Queensland Local Government Association (SWQLGA) – refer to Appendix 1 for further details.

We have formed this Alliance given the common challenges we share in serving the vast communities of Western Queensland and the desire to focus on key priorities that will provide the best opportunities for our communities to thrive and prosper.

As you would know through your roles as Deputy Premier, Treasurer and former Minister for Local Government, Western Queensland supports a diverse range of industries and contributes significantly (especially on a per capita basis) to Gross State Product. You would also appreciate that the communities of Western Queensland have been battling prolonged and severe drought, which has adversely impacted not only local and regional economies, but the very existence of many communities as individuals and families move away in search of jobs and other opportunities.

For this reason, we have resolved to present to you just one item for consideration in developing the 2020/21 Queensland State Budget. Whilst our list of community priorities is naturally and understandably large, the 21 councils of the Western Queensland Alliance believe increased State Government investment in roads infrastructure (both State controlled and Local Government) will provide the most beneficial and far reaching impact in each of our regions and communities.

The research and studies are clear – a myriad of analysis has been undertaken over the years from Infrastructure Australia, Regional Development Australia, your own State Government, the LGAQ, other industry groups and individual councils – roads act as enabling infrastructure, supporting economic growth and social connection / development and in this case many of the State Government's *Advancing Queensland Priorities*.

Rather than present you with more facts and figures as we are sure you understand the arguments, we want to suggest how best we believe increased investment in our State's road infrastructure could be reasonably achieved.

We make this suggestion being cognisant of the Government’s work to streamline State Government grants to Local Government and in recognition that there are existing programs and frameworks that work well, so our aim is to use what already exists.

As part of the 2020/21 Queensland State Budget, the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils respectively requests the State Government:

1. Reverse the long-term trend of declining funding allocations to the North West District, Central West District and South West District of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP). Funding allocations to these Districts continue to be the lowest in the State at 2.7, 2.5 and 2.0 percent respectively – refer to Appendix 2 for a summary of QTRIP allocations across Queensland.

With forecasts demonstrating these allocations are to be reduced even further in 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils requests that this situation be addressed, not by reallocating funding across TMR Districts, but by significantly increasing the Government’s investment in QTRIP state-wide. At a very minimum, the QTRIP allocations to the North West, Central West and South West TMR Districts should be maintained over the long term at no less than 10% in aggregate of the State’s total QTRIP budget to provide certainty and confidence to Western Queensland councils and communities. Based on available information and our calculations, we understand that this would result in an annual increase of \$94.5M or 39% across the North West, Central West and South West TMR Districts.

2. Build on the success of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) and the existing framework of Regional Roads and Transport Groups (RRTGs) by supporting a new investment pipeline in TIDS for the three western Queensland RRTGs. In summary, we are asking for the TIDS allocations to the North West, Outback and South West RRTGs to immediately be increased by 25 percent (from existing 2019/20 allocations) until 2021/22 and then increased by 50 percent in 2022/23 and 2023/24 (refer to table below) on the basis that each of the RRTGs prove their capacity and capability to expend 100 percent of these increased TIDS allocations.

TIDS Allocation (\$,000)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Additional funding over four-year pipeline <sup>1</sup>
NWQ RRTG	5,533	6,916	6,916	8,300	8,300	\$ 8.3M
Outback RRTG	6,156	7,695	7,695	9,234	9,234	\$ 9.2M
South West RRTG	6,682	8,353	8,353	10,023	10,023	\$ 10.0M
Total						\$ 27.5M

<sup>1</sup> Based on current 50/50 TIDS matching arrangements.

3. As part of the above and as a commitment to 'place based' policy and program delivery, immediately review the current TIDS Policy to re-adjust the current 50/50 matching component acknowledging the constrained budgets of Western Queensland Councils. At a minimum, we suggest 80 percent State Government and 20 percent Local Government matching arrangements, which, to some degree mirrors the matching arrangements under many of the National Partnership Agreements between the Australian Government and individual States.

As partners in Government we understand there are many competing and worthy priorities to invest State Government funding. However, our collective experience as 21 Mayors and 106 Councillors tells us that our suggested approach as presented in this submission will deliver the biggest impact in our communities. We also believe it will provide the certainty and confidence our councils and communities so desperately need to forward plan, especially on the back of drought. Consequently, the need for increased investment in Western Queensland roads will also feature as a key priority as part of the Western Queensland Alliance of Council's State Election Platform.

We would welcome the opportunity to have a face to face discussion with you and / or your Departmental representatives about our State Budget submission and will follow up with your office in the coming weeks.

In the interim, please note our contact on this matter is Mr Greg Hoffman, PSM – Executive Officer, NWQROC, (M) 0418 756 005 or (E) [NWQROC@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:NWQROC@carpentaria.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Cr Jack Bawden



Chair  
NWQROC

Cr Rob Chandler



Chair  
RAPAD

Cr Richard Marsh



Chair  
South West Qld LGA

Cr John Wharton AM



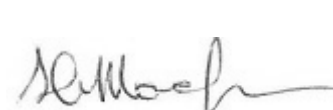
Chair  
NWQRRTG

Cr Bruce Scott OAM



Chair  
Outback RRTG

Cr Stuart Mackenzie



Chair  
South West RRTG

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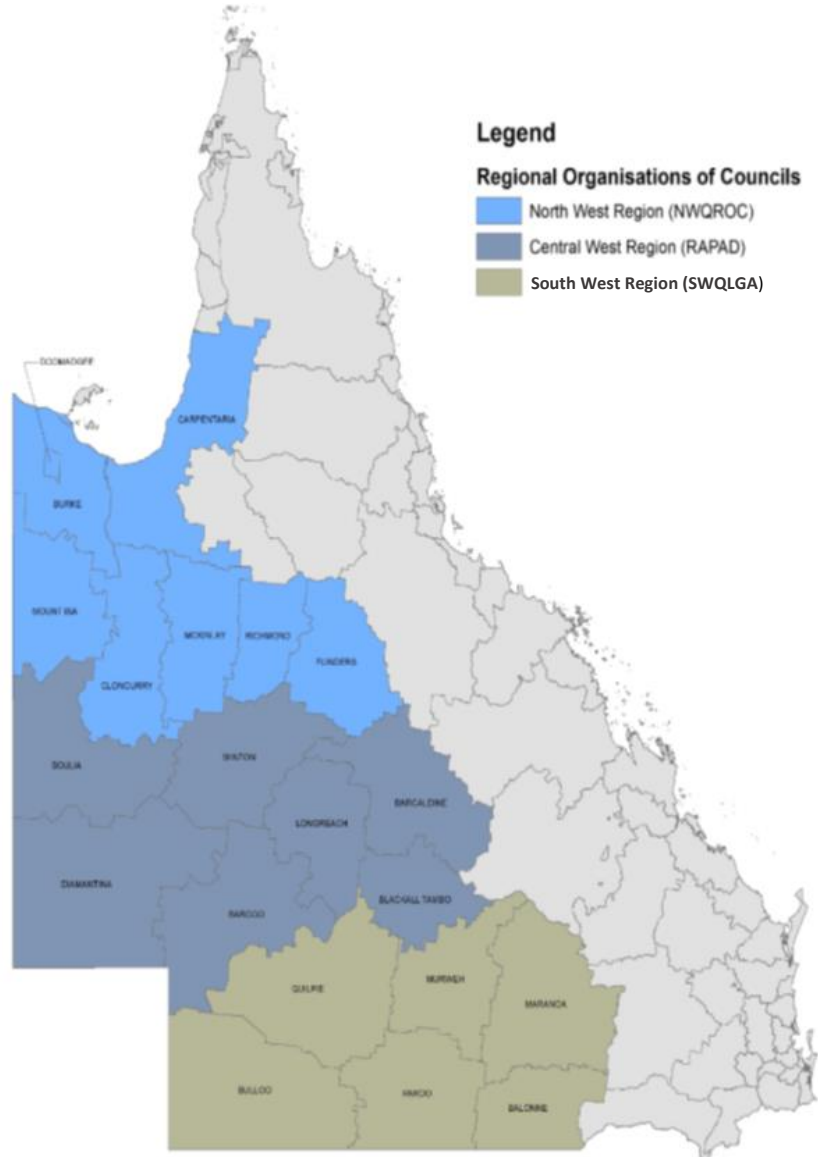
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Appendix 1 – Members of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils

<b>North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC)</b>
1. Burke Shire Council
2. Carpentaria Shire Council
3. Cloncurry Shire Council
4. Flinders Shire Council
5. McKinlay Shire Council
6. Richmond Shire Council
7. Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
8. Mount Isa City Council
<b>Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD)</b>
9. Barcardine Regional Council
10. Barcoo Shire Council
11. Blackall Tambo Shire Council
12. Boulia Shire Council
13. Diamantina Shire Council
14. Longreach Shire Council
15. Winton Shire Council
<b>South West Queensland Local Government Association (SWQLGA)</b>
16. Balonne Shire Council
17. Bulloo Shire Council
18. Maranoa Shire Council
19. Murweh Shire Council
20. Paroo Shire Council
21. Quilpie Shire Council



Appendix 2 – Summary of TMR District Allocations under QTRIP

District	2019/20				
	National Network	State Network	Local Network	TOTAL	Portion of Total
North Coast District	395,085	204,739	10,988	<b>610,812</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Metropolitan District	50,081	416,827	13,542	<b>480,450</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
South Coast District	222,934	190,518	12,747	<b>426,199</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
Fitzroy District	156,972	202,139	10,758	<b>369,869</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
Far North District	89,732	186,298	25,495	<b>301,525</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
Darling Downs District	123,849	128,113	11,538	<b>263,500</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Mackay/Whitsunday District	130,523	100,259	19,757	<b>250,539</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
Northern District	171,386	60,342	9,804	<b>241,532</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
Wide Bay/Burnett District	81,753	85,263	8,852	<b>175,868</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
North West District	<b>20,528</b>	<b>58,404</b>	<b>11,057</b>	<b>89,989</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Central West District	<b>20,588</b>	<b>58,487</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>84,362</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
South West District	<b>8,117</b>	<b>54,461</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>67,345</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,471,548</b>	<b>1,745,850</b>	<b>144,592</b>	<b>3,361,990</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Statewide Commitments</i>	<i>105,651</i>	<i>820,015</i>	<i>37,971</i>	<i>963,637</i>	

District	2020/21				
	National Network	State Network	Local Network	TOTAL	Portion of Total
North Coast District	524,122	238,720	12,534	<b>775,376</b>	<b>19.5%</b>
Metropolitan District	170,864	540,191	48,067	<b>759,122</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
South Coast District	231,390	202,331	5,994	<b>439,715</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
Northern District	292,060	89,977	8,126	<b>390,163</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Far North District	134,132	194,887	15,228	<b>344,247</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
Fitzroy District	178,253	156,275	6,162	<b>340,690</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
Mackay/Whitsunday District	122,492	133,294	4,390	<b>260,176</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
Wide Bay/Burnett District	131,495	111,738	8,281	<b>251,514</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Darling Downs District	161,085	11,583	9,979	<b>182,647</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
North West District	<b>6,588</b>	<b>79,522</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>94,770</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
Central West District	<b>4,956</b>	<b>79,325</b>	<b>5,502</b>	<b>89,783</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
South West District	<b>3,208</b>	<b>48,772</b>	<b>5,083</b>	<b>57,063</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,960,645</b>	<b>1,886,615</b>	<b>138,006</b>	<b>3,985,266</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Statewide Commitments</i>	<i>162,040</i>	<i>960,936</i>	<i>96,417</i>	<i>1,219,393</i>	

District	2021/22 & 2022/23				
	National Network	State Network	Local Network	TOTAL	Portion of Total
Metropolitan District	756,146	1,161,539	119,488	<b>2,037,173</b>	<b>19.8%</b>
North Coast District	1,441,466	284,615	20,706	<b>1,746,787</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
South Coast District	1,134,162	390,393	5,032	<b>1,529,587</b>	<b>14.8%</b>
Wide Bay/Burnett District	1,236,137	211,130	20,845	<b>1,468,112</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
Northern District	740,519	119,467	8,941	<b>868,927</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
Far North District	298,627	481,892	27,330	<b>807,849</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Mackay/Whitsunday District	443,216	355,954	6,646	<b>805,816</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Fitzroy District	86,628	279,117	11,130	<b>376,875</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Darling Downs District	94,255	197,807	17,140	<b>309,202</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
North West District	<b>15,250</b>	<b>102,165</b>	<b>10,740</b>	<b>128,155</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Central West District	<b>7,560</b>	<b>102,338</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>116,926</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
South West District	<b>4,245</b>	<b>92,266</b>	<b>9,393</b>	<b>105,904</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,258,211</b>	<b>3,778,683</b>	<b>264,419</b>	<b>10,301,313</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Statewide Commitments</i>	<i>765,911</i>	<i>2,079,222</i>	<i>146,145</i>	<i>2,991,278</i>	