



# **Blackall-Tambo**

## Regional Council

Exploring the past. Innovating the future.

### **Blackall-Tambo Regional Council**

6 Coronation Drive, BLACKALL QLD 4472  
PO Box 21, BLACKALL QLD 4472

**P:** (07) 4621 6600

**F:** (07) 4657 8855

admin@btrc.qld.gov.au

www.btrc.qld.gov.au

ABN: 42 062 968 922

CDB: ajs

Enquiries: Andrew Martin

25 July, 2017

Ms Susan Levett

Policy Officer

Land Freight and Ports Initiatives

Surface Transport Policy Division

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

GPO Box 594

**CANBERRA ACT 2601**

Dear Ms Levett

### **RE: INQUIRY INTO NATIONAL FREIGHT AND SUPPLY CHAIN PRIORITIES**

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council strongly supports the submission made to the "Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities" by Rockhampton Regional Council advocating that the Central Queensland (Fitzroy) region be selected as the indicative supply chain for 'Beef Export' for Australia.

The Central West covers an area of 538,000km<sup>2</sup>. This area is home to the regional Councils of Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall-Tambo, Diamantina, Barcoo and Boulia. This vast area is primarily engaged in the production of beef cattle for Australian and international markets. Rockhampton is geographically and strategically the natural service centre for our region.

One of the issues facing producers is the need to transport stock through the bottleneck of the Darling Downs and the urban congestion of Brisbane. Rockhampton is ideally located to receive cattle but the existing road network prohibits this.

The State of Queensland holds half of the nation's beef herd and significant numbers are produced in the central Queensland region. Our locality is ideal for producers value adding through organic certification, which markets are demanding more and more. Blackall has the only saleyard in Queensland accredited and licensed to process organic classified cattle. The saleyard facility is located 614km from Rockhampton or 963km to Brisbane.



Producers under utilise the Rockhampton option as 28km of the 614km road is unsealed. It is not an all-weather road and it becomes un-trafficable in wet weather. Buyers must have certainty that they can deliver stock.

The road is state controlled and expenditure of \$7million would permanently address this issue. Likewise producers in Tambo/Alpha and Emerald are hampered by the fact that the road which, is 633km long between Tambo and Rockhampton still has 50kms unsealed also susceptible to rainfall.

Cattle producers across the central west would reap major cost savings by accessing Rockhampton which would alleviate traffic congestion in the south east populated area of Queensland.

<b>From</b>	<b>Rockhampton</b>	<b>Brisbane</b>
Winton	866km	1356km
Longreach	686km	1178km
Barcaldine	579km	1071km
Blackall	614km	963km
Tambo	633km	863km
Boulia	1228km	1719km
Barcoo	904km	1287km
Diamantina	1415km	1906km

I believe that there would be enormous support from Central West producers and local governments for the Rockhampton Regional Council submission. Please advise if we can assist further in any way.

Yours faithfully



**Andrew Martin**  
**Mayor**