

23 April 2015

Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE 4001

**To Whom It May Concern**

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone (MITEZ Inc) is the peak regional development body responsible for the seven local government areas between Mount Isa and Townsville. **MITEZ considers the incidence of FIFO as follows:-**

- A potential threat to the future economic and social fabric in established mining communities such as Cloncurry and Mount Isa where employees and families working on mine sites have traditionally lived and worked in these towns and contributed to the community and local economy.
- A necessary evil but accepted as a solution for providing a workforce to isolated mine sites where it is impractical for workers to commute from the closest town on a daily basis.
- Concerns some mines are seen to be opting for FIFO generally, whether they are close to an established town/city or not, with little or no regard for the region in which they operate and exploit. Also there are concerns about the trend that existing employees are negotiating FIFO packages to relocate with their family thus undermining the stability of mining communities and taking their salaries out of town.
- Perceptions of inequity between locally based employees and FIFO workers both working for the same company on similar jobs with the local employee knowing his FIFO counterpart is costing the employer a lot more with no compensation or encouragement offered to local employees either as a bonus or tax incentive.
- Lack of incentives such as a reasonable zone allowance does not encourage workers to consider living and working in mining communities when there are better incentives offered to FIFO.

Local Government in communities such as Cloncurry and Mount Isa as well as some of the Shires in areas where future mines may open such as Flinders Shire require the support of State and Commonwealth Governments to ensure they can provide adequate infrastructure, services and improve lifestyle amenity.

State and Commonwealth Governments need to be encouraging true regionalisation in the outer regions and not just building bigger coastal cities to house and base FIFO workers. Action is needed to enable the towns and cities closer to the mines to improve and develop to better cater for workers and families.

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone participated in the Beef and Roads forum held in Cloncurry on 31 August 2011 and there were motions put forward at this forum expressing concern at the threats of FIFO to towns in North West Queensland (page 9). The final report on the motions of this forum is attached to this letter. Motions have been referred to MITEZ for further action such as to be forwarded to the Queensland State Government and Australian Government for their respective response.

Yours faithfully



**David Glasson (CHAIR)**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## MOTIONS

### Challenges of the Northern Beef Industry

#### Motion

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implement the following:

1. Provide direct financial assistance to producers to compensate them over the next two years for the loss of income due to complete disruption to the cattle market caused by the live meat ban.
2. Restore the subsidised AQIS charges that were in place prior to 1 July 2011
3. Implement a nationwide promotion campaign of the beef industry to restore the good name of the beef producers and get Australians behind the very successful agricultural industries in Australia.
4. Have the Commonwealth Government review the existing foreign ownership laws to ensure that overseas corporation cannot take advantage to the current state of the beef industry and the further breakdown of the traditional family producers which have been and will continue to be the back bone of rural Australia.
5. Commonwealth Government to put pressure on the bank and finance sector to ensure they work with producers to help them through this very serious economic time.

**Moved** Cr. Andrew Daniels

**Seconded** Cr. Warren Devlin

**Passed**

#### Motion

1. That the DAFF minister be lobbied to restructure the MLA so that producers are able to directly elect board members and that the MLA have a trade and lobbying function and added to their marketing and research functions

**Moved** Joanne Rea

**Seconded** David Camm

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

1. That this forum supports the building of a meat processing plant in Central or NWQ with consideration to all or near all weather access and operation.
2. That measures should be considered by producers to ensure an all year supply of fat cattle, by back grounding or what other means to ensure an all year operation of plant
3. That lobbying and constructive thought and effort be employed to enhance road conditions to allow stock travel most of the time;
4. That cattle producers be encouraged to breed to suit identified markets;
5. That the forum supports the building/placement of necessary supporting infrastructure.

**Moved** Cr Ben Callcott

**Seconded** David Camm

**Passed**

## Food & Bio Security

## Motion

1. That State and Federal Governments include agricultural industries and food security in the school curriculum from early childhood to ensure the benefits and importance of the beef and agriculture industry are guided and known by all Australians

**Moved** Cr. Warren Devlin

**Seconded** Cr. Ben Callcott

**Passed**

## Motion

1. Part of the \$5 contribution made to MLA by the beef producers and matched by the Federal Government, be used to promote the beef industry to the Australian community. Ensure the industry is seen by the Australian community as a sustainable industry with best practice.

**Moved** Cr. Warren Devlin

**Seconded** Cr. Fred Pascoe

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

1. That the Savannah Way be declared part of the national highway network and be sealed to a national standard and that low level crossings be raised

**Moved** Cr. Ernie Camp

**Seconded** Cr. Fred Pascoe

**Passed**

## Motion

1. That the Federal Government formally acknowledge that pastoralists in Northern Australia have been and will continue as successful carbon farmers for generations and have indeed been at the forefront of responsible climate change management and mitigation through strong environmental stewardship of the extensive Savannah grasslands and that such recognition be both in documented and financial form and attract immediate automatic financial benefits under the carbon farming initiative
2. That federal government through applicable bodies promote the recent scientific findings that grass feed beef has equivalent health benefits (as traditional sources) of Omega 3

**Moved** Kylie Camp

**Seconded** Cr. Ernie Camp

**Passed**

## Motion

1. That Government put forward their policy on how they can stop the invasion, destructiveness and health issues that are being created by flying foxes. No flying foxes within a 2 km radius from the perimeter of townships.

**Moved** Cr. Andrew Daniels

**Seconded** Cr. Ben Callcott

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Land Tenure

### Motion

That the Queensland Government adopts the methodology in calculating any rural lease rental:

Rural rents should not rise substantially without concurrent rises in farm income and/or technological advancements which lower cost and increase production significantly

In order to achieve the environmental and cultural objectives of Delbessie, lessees must have financial security to do so

Lessees, like all business owners, require planning certainty to state taxes and charges should be introduced gradually, smoothing radical change

Where the Government's changing policies on leasehold land affect the lessee's ability to generate profit from the leasehold land, these impacts should be reflected in leasehold rent

Given rural leases are unique in requiring their lessees to provide land management outcomes for the state /community, whilst also operating a sustainable grazing enterprise, this requirement should be reflected in leasehold rent

**Moved** Lauren Hewitt **Seconded** Cr. Rick Britton

### Passed

### Motion

To recognise the private investment in leasehold land and protect that investment from the uncertainty that arises from periodic renewals at the State's discretion, the rural leasehold land strategy should be reviewed with a view to converting to perpetual leases all current leases of rural leasehold land with terms of 20 years or more and covering an area of 100 hectares or more.

**Moved** Ari McCamley **Seconded** Cr. John Wharton

### Passed





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

Land use restrictions

To recognise the vested interest rural landholders have in caring for the environmental values of their land and the confusion and administrative burden caused by the current interaction of many different federal, state and local laws that affect the use of rural land, for all such laws to be reviewed with a view to streamlining and reducing restrictions on land use where environmental values are otherwise protected.

**Moved** Ari McCamley                      **Seconded** Cr. Andrew Daniels

**Passed**

## Motion

Interaction between rural landholders and resource companies

In respect of land not otherwise protected by strategic cropping land policy, landholders affected by significant resource projects should have the right to choose between being compensated and having their whole of property acquired in accordance with the principles in the acquisition of Land Act before the commencement of production activities

**Moved** Cr. Andrew Daniels                      **Seconded** David Camm

**Passed**

## Motion

Local Government Assessment of Resource Projects:

That significant resource projects should be impact assessable against Local Government Planning Schemes with Councils as a Concurrent Agency

**Moved** Cr. Alan Peterson                      **Seconded** John Green

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

That confidentiality clauses should never be part of a legal document between land holders and mining companies – in particular State or Federal Legislation as it is in the public interest that the content of these agreements be widely known.

**Moved** Jacqueline Curley      **Seconded** Joanne Rea

**Passed**

## Motion

That in relation to State Rural Land Strategy

- The lease renewal process needs to be streamlined at all levels from inspection to agreement including Indigenous Land Use Agreement;
- Seasonal variations need to be truly accounted for on the ground;
- Satellite maps need to be accurate and ground truthed by independent qualified people in all circumstances.; and
- 'Remedial Action Notices' need to be simple and not too costly to implement.

**Moved** Joanne Rea      **Seconded** Lorna Bahnisch

**Passed**

## Motion

That this forum asks the Queensland State Government to investigate tenure conversion for grazing land. It would be expected that if upgrade options are assessed they should be:

- Affordable; and
- Practical.

**Moved** Rob Atkinson      **Seconded** Greg McNamara

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

That leasehold rents when collected be spent in the local district and a proportion of that rent should be directed back into providing land services (environmental, social and cultural) on the property where the lessee provides these services above the duty of care.

**Moved** Rob Atkinson      **Seconded** Jacqueline Curley

**Passed**

## Water

## Motion

That there be a moratorium on water charges for 25 years for business / agriculture to develop irrigation projects

**Moved** Cr. Ernie Camp      **Seconded** Cr. Andrew Daniels

**Passed**

## Motion

That the Queensland Government remove the clause in the irrigation license application, regarding remnant vegetation and also provide the water at no charge to the applicant, for the next ten years, with the idea of starting an irrigation industry to support the cattle industry and a future meat works for the North West Queensland.

**Moved** Cr. John Wharton      **Seconded** Cr Ben Callcott

**Passed**







# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Wild Rivers

### Motion

That Wild Rivers declaration cannot be declared until such time that there is **fully funded** Federal and State **programs for** woody weeds and pest animal eradication.

### Moved

Cr Rick Britton

### Seconded

Cr. Corrie Pickering

### Passed

### Motion

That Wild Rivers declared areas have a local working group made up of community and industry groups, funded by Federal and State Governments and managed by the Economic development groups within the region.

### Moved

Cr Rick Britton

### Seconded

Cr. Ernie Camp

### Passed

### Motion

That the Coal Seam Gas mining and infrastructure under the petroleum and gas act not be allowed within 2km's from a farm' homestead or small community (<1000) unless such homestead is owned by the mining company

### Moved

Joanne Rea

### Seconded

Cr Rick Britton

### Passed





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Taxation and Finance

### Motion

That

- Taxation concessions for the more remote country areas to make aligned to provincial and city living. This could assist in encouraging more people to live in these areas where labour is difficult to source.
- Taxation benefits to encourage more family succession planning with a view to enable the younger generation to remain on the land (or return) and lower the present average age (higher end of 50);
- Higher rebates for fuels in remote areas for transport, helicopter operators etc. to alleviate such things as fuel levies imposed because of rising costs;
- Increase in Farm Management Deposit individual limit; and
- Release of cash component of funds held in Superannuation Funds to provide a domestic source of funding for financial institutions given the wholesale cost for funds from international markets.

**Moved** Rod Kelly

**Seconded** Harold McMullun

**Passed**

### Motion

That Government considers allowing local councils the right to charge mining companies within 60 km's of a town within their shire operating FIFO a \$50,000 per person per year levy. As a way of compensating local communities and giving incentive so that the mining companies rethink FIFO operations and at the very least compensate the local communities for lost revenue and extra strain on their local infrastructure

**Moved** John Green

**Seconded** Cr. John Wharton

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

### Federal Taxes

Zone Rebates: That the zone rebate system be completely overhauled to substantially increase amounts and extend areas. Extend system to private companies operating in regional Australia.

Farm Management Deposits (FMDs): Increase the non-primary production income threshold to \$150,000 (from \$65,000). Also extend FMD's to private companies.

**Moved** Ben Cameron                      **Seconded** Cr. Andrew Daniels

### Passed

## Motion

### State Taxes

Stamp Duty exemption on generational transfers: reviewed and extended to include:

- Remove the unencumbered component;
- Broaden to include nieces and nephews;
- Make it on land only; and
- Introduce brother/sister exemption on transfers.

**Moved** Ben Cameron                      **Seconded** Cr. Ben Callcott

### Passed





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

### State Taxes

Develop a Royalties for Regions Program:

- Redirection of Government spending from the major population centres – into regional areas of the State;
- 25% of the States mining and petroleum royalty revenue directed to a Special Investment Fund (SIF)
  - Capped at \$1 Billion annually
- Disbursements from SIF to be over and above consolidated revenue allocations for the regions;
- SIF funds to be distributed on an agree formula;
  - Regional Councils for Local projects;
  - Major Infrastructure Projects (real assets);
    - Ports
    - Hospitals
    - Roads – real roads that are safe
    - Water Infrastructure – build them, stop stuffing about – look at Emerald/Burdekin
  - State Government Initiatives that boost and leverage regional growth and investment; and
  - Must have protection mechanisms so the 'fill' cannot be raided.

**Moved** Ben Cameron                      **Seconded** Cr. Fred Pascoe

**Passed**

## Motion

### State Taxes

Payroll tax: abolish it or at least abolish it for regional Australia.

**Moved** Ben Cameron                      **Seconded** Cr. Greg Campbell

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Road Networks

### Motion

That the Northern Outback Beef and Roads Forum endorse the North West Regional Roads Groups Investment Prospectus to the Commonwealth Government.

**Moved** Cr. Paul Woodhouse      **Seconded** Cr. Brendan McNamara

**Passed**

## Beef Industry Future

### Motion

That GSD and MITEZ to engage John Kirlin of Sustainable Agriculture to conduct a series of workshops in the Gulf and North West to explain his white paper on Sustainable Agriculture making money from rainfall to support a hay-based feed lot with a meat works.

**Moved** Cr Warren Bethel      **Seconded** Rob Atkinson

**Passed**

### Motion

That 5% of all pastoral, perpetual and freehold land leases be allocated for intensive agriculture development allowing full timber clearing if necessary for the establishment of improved pasture or the growing of crops to value add their livestock or create an economic benefit.

**Moved** Cr John Wharton      **Seconded** Cr Fred Pascoe

**Passed**





# Northern Outback Beef & Roads Forum

## Motion

That this forum supports the North Beef, MITEZ, GSD and DEEDI initiative to fully investigate the development of further beef processing capacity in Northern Outback Queensland.

**Moved** Ninian Stewart-Moore      **Seconded** Rob Atkinson

**Passed**

## Where to Now

## Motion

That motions or resolutions passed at this forum be forwarded to MITEZ, GSD, Federal Minister for Agriculture Joe Ludwig, State Government Ministers Craig Wallace and Tim Mullherin, Local Federal Member Bob Katter, State Member Betty Kiernan and opposition members Vaughan Johnson, Shane Knuth, Andrew Cripps and all relevant ministers.

**Moved** Cr. John Wharton      **Seconded** Cr. Fred Pascoe

**Passed**

## Motion

Build alignment and effort from this forum with actions delivered from the live export meeting and committee formed from Georgetown 12<sup>th</sup> August forum

**Moved** Noeline Ikin      **Seconded** Cr. Warren Bethel

**Passed**

