

Public Works Inquiry into the state controlled roads from Birdsville to Bedourie and Birdsville to Windorah

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P O Box 608 Coorparoo Q.4151

P: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17/07/2023

Mr Shane King, MP
Transport and Resources Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Dear Mr King,

RE: Public Works inquiry into state-controlled roads between Birdsville and Bedourie and Birdsville to Windorah.

Arrabury Pastoral Company properties are located in the Diamantina and Barcoo shires as listed.

- Arrabury Station via Windorah on Lot & Plan 2/AD3, area 418000 Ha
- Mt Leonard Station via Windorah on Lot & Plan 7/SP263958 area 323000 Ha
- Cluny Station, Bedourie on Lot & Plan 1/SP26399 area 546000 Ha

These properties run up to 16000 head of beef cattle supplying cattle to beef processors located at Oakey, Grantham, Dinmore, and Beenleigh as well as supplying feed lots on the Darling Downs.

We have responsibilities to be able to be part of this supply chain which are listed below.

- **Compliance:** We need to comply with State & Federal Government Legislation like Chain of Responsibility as outlined within the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), Work Health & Safety Regulations, Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock and relevant codes of practise.
- **Mode of Transport:** Cattle are transported by Road trains made up of 3 double deck trailers carrying around 120 head which has a dollar value of over \$300,000.00 per unit.
- **Time frames:** Cattle are contracted to processors and feed lots with a locked in date of delivery which we need to adhere to.

Our concerns.

- Large portions of the Windorah – Birdsville Road remains unsealed.
- Rain events lead to road closures which impact the movement of people, livestock and supplies.
- There are a number of creeks which, when they are running, hold up the movement of transport during rain events which has huge impact on making delivery schedules and the delivery of goods and supplies to the stations and towns which are vital for care and wellness of the people who live at these stations and local communities.

Proposed Solutions:

- Improved trafficability of existing roads through the region by investing in laying of bitumen for overtaking lanes which will increase the safety for all travellers.
- Raising creek crossings by way of box culverts or similar so that in average rain events roads are not cut.
- Creating an opportunity to invest in laying bitumen on these regional roads to better serve the region not just for the local communities but the ever-increasing tourist traffic, which is great for the communities, but puts a great burden on maintaining roads to a safe standard for all modes of transport which use these roads.

Consideration should be made for overall safety and accessibility for travellers of all kinds on these roads that were once considered remote but are now being used by an ever-increasing number of tourists which leads to an increased number of supply and service vehicles to cater for these travellers and local communities.

Consideration should also be made to the future promotion of tourism and events that are held in these remote locations without any infrastructure upgrade programmes so that local businesses and communities are not inconvenienced by the destruction to the road network that these events create.

We thank you for the opportunity to be able to submit to you our concerns that effect our everyday lives and activities to maintain a healthy and productive business and social environment.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Schutt
General Manager
Arrabury Pastoral Company