

21 October 2020

## RACQ backs commitment for a second Bruce

RACQ has welcomed Labor's \$200 million promise to build an inland alternative to the Bruce Highway from Charters Towers to Mungindi if re-elected and called on other parties and the Federal Government to support the commitment.

Club spokesperson Paul Turner said for years RACQ had called on the State Government to develop an inland route, to provide a flood resilient freight network from south east Queensland to the north.

"The Bruce Highway is the backbone of Queensland, serving a population of more than 1.2 million people as either a local road, tourism highway or the main freight route across the State," Mr Turner said.

"Activating an inland alternative freight route will provide Queensland's supply chains with a safe and resilient substitute to the Bruce Highway by moving heavy vehicles off the existing network.

"Travel times could be reduced by up to four hours if this road is built. There will be major improvements to productivity and with fewer trucks on the Bruce, a real safety benefit for all road users."

Mr Turner said the Bruce Highway was prone to being cut several times a year due to weather events which could cripple the north.

"During wet season we often see the Bruce cut by flood waters which is not only inconvenient for locals but also damages the transport network, halts freight and isolates communities," he said.

"An inland route will strengthen major supply chains, ensuring far north Queensland isn't cut off during those inevitable extreme weather events.

"We'd now like to see all parties and the Federal Government commit to delivering this project and give regional Queenslanders access to the safe, reliable and resilient infrastructure they deserve."

**Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner 0408 850 270; Media Advisor Vivien O'Connor 0427 261 932.**

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.