



Representing all Multi-Combination Operators

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRUCE HIGHWAY FUNDING WELCOMED

A \$2 billion Federal Coalition commitment to upgrade Queensland's Bruce Highway is a warmly welcomed investment into one of Australia's key transport corridors, Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said today.

"It is exciting but appropriate to see this vital transport corridor – equivalent in length to that between Melbourne and Brisbane – being recognised for the almighty transport task that is demanded of it now and into the future, and the safety issues this involves," Mr Bremner said.

"As an industry reliant on a solid and safe road infrastructure, we welcomed the ground-breaking \$38 billion AusLink initiative and are delighted to see on-the-ground, tangible commitments flowing through from it."

Key elements of the announcement made by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Mark Vaile, along with Prime Minister, John Howard, in Cairns today, include:

- \$800 million to upgrade the highway between Sarina and Cairns, including:
 - Improved and opened access over the Cardwell Range
 - Flood mitigation measures on the Herbert, Tully, North Johnstone and Mulgrave River
 - A new bridge over the Burdekin River
- \$450 million to upgrade the highway between Sarina and Gympie, including:
 - More overtaking lanes and safer intersections, including the interchange between the Bruce and Dawson highways
 - Safer southern highway access to Gin Gin
- \$750 million for the southern Bruce Highway, including:
 - Completion of the Gympie Bypass by 2020
 - Upgrading of the Sunshine Coast section of the highway

Mr Bremner said the industry was confident the project would be endorsed across the political spectrum.

"We are lucky as an industry to enjoy broad bi-partisan support for our policy objectives, and we look forward to this continuing on such vital infrastructure development as this."

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