

CQ NEWS

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United roads push



COMING TOGETHER: Rockhampton Regional councillor Neil Fisher, Central Highlands Mayor Kerry Hayes, RRC's Tony Williams and general manager, Central Highlands Development Corporation, Sandra Hobbs. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

TWO Central Queensland councils have joined forces to lobby for more State Government funding for one of the region's vital highways.

Last week, Rockhampton Regional councillors Tony Williams and Neil Fisher met with Central Highlands Regional Council to discuss how improvements to the Capricorn Hwy could enhance the region's economy.

Cr Williams said more

State Government resources were needed to help drive economic growth in mining, tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.

"The Capricorn Hwy plays a significant role in the delivery of supplies for the mining industry and with the pending \$22 billion Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin now is the time to allocate funds for highway upgrades into the government's future capital

works program," he said.

"Investment in the highway needs to keep ahead of the development of the coal industry as mines move further into the Galilee Basin such as the China First mine in Alpha.

"By doing so it will assist in economic development and increase safety for all road users.

"Rockhampton and Central Highlands councils will also seek to co-fund an RACQ review of the

Capricorn Hwy to highlight areas where safety needs to be improved."

Central Highlands Mayor Kerry Hayes said the highway gave critical access to important services including medical, sporting and education opportunities.

"An investment in the highway is an investment in the people of Central Queensland, but also the future prosperity of our great region."