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News Release > Mayors talk up Whitsunday message

THE election funding commitment for the Ring Road will be honoured in the May Federal Budget, amid confirmation from the Deputy Prime Minister during talks in Canberra.

Chair of the Whitsunday Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) and Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford sought the assurance during a two-day visit to the nation's capital along with Isaac counterpart Anne Baker and Whitsunday Mayor Jennifer Whitney.

"Whilst the Federal Government is facing a tough budget this year, it is certainly pleasing that we received confirmation from the Deputy PM that the election commitment made last year will be honoured in the May Budget," she said.

The three Mayors held positive talks with Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, a range of Federal Ministers and senior policy advisors during the two-day visit to push the importance of the Whitsunday region and its infrastructure needs.

Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen helped facilitate many of the Ministerial delegations and appointments with senior policy advisors.

The Whitsunday region generates \$22 billion worth of economic value to the Australia economy and our region's productivity is 62 per cent higher than the Queensland average.

Whitsunday Mayor Jennifer Whitney said the delegation gained strong support from several Ministers.

"We've managed to secure a commitment that two Federal Ministers will visit the region this year to liaise with business and tourism leaders," she said.



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Small Business Minister Bruce Billson and Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb have confirmed that they will visit this year to discuss issues relating to their portfolios.

“This will provide many of our business operators with the opportunity to talk directly with key Cabinet Ministers and put local issues on the national agenda,” Cr Whitney said.

The Deputy Prime Minister also provided positive news regarding the FIFO issue, confirming that he had elevated the FIFO Inquiry Report and was working with government departments to review the Federal inquiry’s 21 recommendations.

Isaac Mayor Anne Baker said the feedback was encouraging.

“I think it indicates the importance of the issue from a national perspective and I eagerly await the Deputy PM’s whole-of-government response,” she said.

The Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged there were 162 outstanding reports from the previous government that required attention, but he had elevated the FIFO work practices report and instructed his office to consult with various government departments to prepare a whole-of-government response to take to Parliament.

For further information:

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