



6th September 2018

Ports grow elsewhere, and maintenance done overseas

Daniel McCarthy, the KAP's candidate for Leichhardt in the upcoming Federal election vows that if he is elected to parliament the KAP will ensure that Cairns port and the marine servicing industry is a priority and will be upgraded.

Prime Minister Morrison visited Cairns Tuesday morning and paid no attention to our Cairns port project, then bolted to Townsville where he gave \$75M for their Port expansion. Mr Morrison said the investment would ensure Townsville Port remained "globally competitive" and *"we want Townsville to have a port capable of hosting larger cargo and passenger ships, helping to build a stronger economy in North Queensland."*

By Tuesday evening opposition leader Bill Shorten promised a permanent rotation of Navy vessels to be based in Townsville including an extensive maintenance facility, which would provide hundreds of new jobs should Labor win the next election.

Townsville's now approved and partly funded \$1.6 billion port expansion project is a whopping 11 times the size of the 'down scaled' project for Cairns which the Federal government still hasn't approved nor offered any money to fund.

"Good on Townsville but why has the government abandoned Cairns port", says a furious Daniel McCarthy. "The Federal governments only activity in Cairns has been inflicting the Reef 2050 plan, which ensures Cairns port cannot grow into the future". "We have to get it amended".

"To make matters worse I am very disappointed to have discovered the Dredge Brisbane, which today finishes its annual maintenance work in Cairns, is about to set sail to have a multi-Million-dollar refit carried out in Singapore." "The dredge Brisbane was built in Cairns in the year 2000, but it is not maintained here. To boot, virtually all Australian tug boats also go to Singapore for their refits."

"Instead of exporting our jobs we need to re-establish a significant large vessel marine maintenance facility here in Cairns. We have the skills and expertise we just need the consistency of work to make it viable" "I keep saying, we need to plan and build a replacement Dredge for the Brisbane". "Servicing the tug boats and superyachts would also have a tremendous boost for our local trades".

This will only happen when we have a Federal Member for Leichhardt who understands marine issues and who will fight for us in Canberra" said Mr McCarthy.

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