



26<sup>th</sup> August 2018

## **Open borders while government squabbles over leadership.**

Daniel McCarthy KAP candidate for Leichhardt is furious with the federal governments utter failure to keep Far North Queensland safe.

On Sunday afternoon a boat load of people who are reported to be from Indonesia have landed at the mouth of the Daintree River, an hour's drive north of Cairns, Northern Australia's largest city.

"They have fled onto the main land and at the time of writing, two Indonesians have been arrested with two dozen or more on the loose. It's reported they are merely illegal Asylum seekers and hopefully that's all they are", says Mr McCarthy.

**"They can simply cruise within our waters for thousands of miles before choosing a location to go ashore completely undetected. What hope have we got of stopping those with far more serious intentions like invasion or an act of terrorism?" Mr McCarthy asks. "Without being an alarmist, this is a real possibility."**

Mr McCarthy also points out that "regardless of the intent of these particular people, illegal landings also carry a high-level risk of bringing in diseases such as rabies on rat infested boats. Our airports have intense screening, yet our oceans are wide open here in the North it seems."

**The blame is to be directed at the Federal government, specifically the outgoing Member for Leichhardt. The Navy and Border Force is not adequately resourced. Our agencies are enabled and instructed by the government of the day, and this Government has shirked their responsibility," says Daniel McCarthy.**

"Obviously, Mr Enstch has failed to get the message through to his government. Far North Queensland and the Federal seat of Leichhardt has about 1000kms of coastline and countless easy access points for those who intend to land here illegally. Who knows how many have previously arrived undetected", says Mr McCarthy.

# KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY

## MEDIA RELEASE

**DANIEL MCCARTHY**

**Candidate for Leichhardt**



Daniel McCarthy can speak with authority and has a very good understanding on this matter. He spent decades running boats in the waters off our remote coastline of Cape York, the Torres Strait and the Gulf of Carpentaria, including 5 years patrolling them as a Government officer.

Mr McCarthy's father also ran Coastwatch in the 1980's, conducting surveillance of all of Australians northern coastline from Mackay to Broome. This is where Daniel's passion for protecting our waters emerged.

"We have to significantly increase our capacity to patrol our waters, to do the job more effectively. Rather than spending \$50B on submarines which we won't see for 25-30 years", says Mr McCarthy.

**"The solution is to immediately order patrol boats with greater hitting power and base them in Cairns, Thursday Island, Weipa and Darwin and this would be the highest priority if I was elected as the member for Leichhardt", says Mr McCarthy.**

"The people I speak to have had a gutful of the Federal Government spending their time on issues like gay marriage, MP's citizenship and playing pinning the tail on the donkey. It's about time they started to spend some time on their highest priority, keeping the nation safe", says Mr McCarthy.

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