

DANIEL MCCARTHY

Candidate for Leichhardt

**KATTER'S
AUSTRALIAN
PARTY**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Government should support Cairns port.

It's high time the Federal government let the tide come in for the Port of Cairns.

Daniel McCarthy KAP candidate for Leichhardt is well and truly fed up with the Federal governments neglect of the Cairns Port.

“Forget the token effort by the State government to deliver a downsized project stifled by politics. The Federal government should support and approve the original project from 2014, to remove 4.4 million cubic metres. This will responsibly give Cairns a shipping channel that will keep our region afloat for the next 25 years”, says Mr McCarthy.

“Even UNESCO has approved the original project, so why on earth would the government back pedal from that? Once the downsized project is complete the UNESCO agreed Reef 2050 plan bans any future project, so we need to get this project done properly”, says Mr McCarthy.

The Federal government has approved an 11 million cubic metre expansion of Townsville's Port and given them \$75 million. Surely in Cairns, we can have a project less than half the size!” says Mr McCarthy. Why should our Port and our cities future be sacrificed to satisfy the Green voters in metropolitan cities? Recent reports from the Queensland Ports Association confirms that modernising our port does not harm the reef. Perpetuating the reef harm myth only harms our economy. The Federal government should back Cairns, back the truth and stop playing politics.

“Our Port holds the key to future economic growth, not only for the city of Cairns but also for the greater region of Far North Qld, yet the Federal government continues to shirk its responsibility” says a cranked-up McCarthy.

“I have asked Bob Katter Federal member for Kennedy to strongly impress upon the Prime Minister the importance of our Port which borders our electorates to get the original project approved by the federal government”

The KAP has long called for our harbour entrance channel to be expanded, so the community can benefit from larger cruise ship visits. It's important we acknowledge that cruise shipping is by far the fastest growing tourism sectors in the world. Our beautiful Port is highly desirable for the cruise companies and their guests. Expansion is also vital for importing and exporting operating efficiencies and for the growth of HMAS Cairns.

In 2015, the state KAP members put an amendment up to the Sustainable Ports Development Bill, for Cairns port to be made a priority and securely deliver the original Cairns Shipping Development Project. The LNP voted with Labor to reject the KAP amendments, ensuring Cairns remained a boutique port. This is simply not good enough for a city that is now the largest in Northern Australia.

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