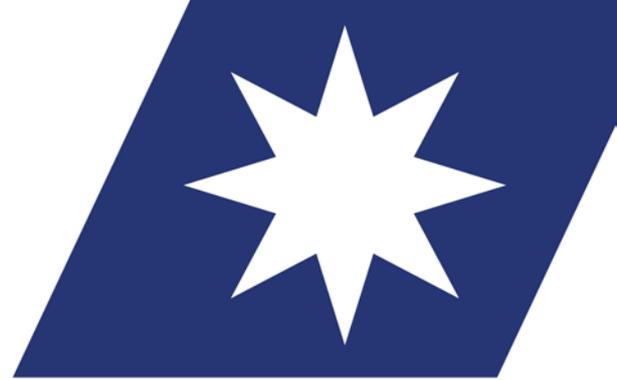


## BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



## MEDIA RELEASE

7 November 2018

# Katter: we want Dan McCarthy's 'Original' Cairns Port

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy has today echoed calls by KAP Candidate for Leichhardt Dan McCarthy to support and approve the original Cairns Trinity Inlet project from 2014 to remove 4.4 million cubic metres, rather than a scaled-down version.

"The reef 2050 plan condemns Cairns to be a little second-rate tiny backwater and the current Member for Leichhardt has backed that plan. You can't blame the Government nor expect the lily pad lefts, the ALP 'bludgerigar club' to agree, but we also can't reasonably expect the Federal Government to agree unless their own Member of Parliament changes their position," Mr Katter said.

"Now I arguably am the Member of Parliament for the harbour area and I'm sick and tired of playing with pygmies and asking for crumbs from Brisbane and Canberra. Whereas Townsville, with hardball leadership, is leaping away with everything.

"You play with pygmies, you will get fed peanuts."

In addition to backing Dan McCarthy's calls for the original Cairns Trinity Inlet project, Mr Katter strongly supports the vision of former Queensland Cabinet Minister Martin Tenni to develop a deep water port for Northern Australia at Yarrabah.

"Let me be very clear, we need deep water dredging for Cairns, we need to establish the major deep water port for Northern Australia at Yarrabah," Mr Katter said.

"If the First Australians here were getting a fair go here, this would have been flying ages ago. With a bridge across from Trinity Inlet, it is from dirt to dirt; there are no mangroves. A very high-speed dual lane highway back to a tunnel through the ranges coming out north-west of Gordonvale connects the Tablelands."

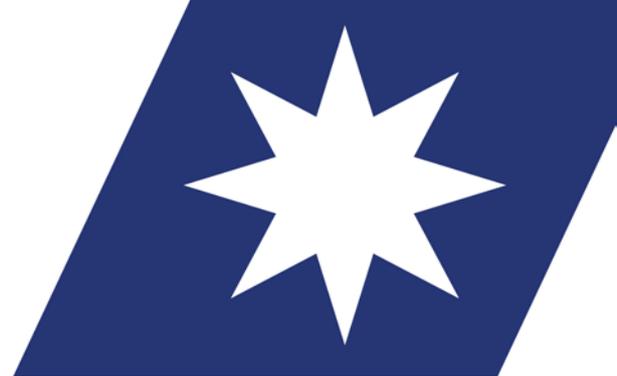
Mr Katter also referred to some of the leadership in the Cairns area holding the city back.

"Dan McCarthy quite rightly has pointed out that a number of these people have very serious question marks of propriety hanging over their heads. But I am serving notice that we are seizing the leadership here. In Queensland, the Liberal party has gone from North Queensland. A weird technicality won one seat and except for that, the Liberals hold one seat out of 13 in North Queensland.

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"They have failed miserably in giving us the leadership we have needed in Cairns. I've tried to work with them but quite frankly, they are serving other masters.

"In Cairns, people do not have jobs, there is casualised labour and there are empty shops all over the city. I'm not prepared to stand aside and let the leadership lie with people who have served other masters.

"With Dan McCarthy, we are looking at a different generation of leadership for Cairns with much higher aspirations," Mr Katter said.

### **Background:**

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.

—ENDS—

Media Enquiries

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