

**DANIEL MCCARTHY**  
Candidate for Leichhardt

**KATTER'S  
AUSTRALIAN  
PARTY**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Strategic Cairns port thanks to Vice President Mike Pence.**

Daniel McCarthy KAP candidate for Leichhardt is delighted that the USA's VP has highlighted the importance of Cairns as a Strategic Port.

"Along with the KAP MP's, myself and many business leaders in Cairns, we have been calling for the Port of Cairns to be made a Strategic Port since 2015. It is wonderful that Mr. Pence has effectively helped the cause" says McCarthy.

Mike Pence has committed to a joint venture Naval base with Australia in PNG. Naturally, Cairns port is in a prime position, and its expansion is essential to support this move.

Our region relies heavily on having an excellent working Port so supplies like fuel can come in and our products like sugar can get out. We need a deeper Port to make these and other movements more efficient and accessible as well as cashing in on the bigger cruise ships into the future.

We won't be a bulk minerals export port, but it's essential our channel be expanded so our region can also grow.

***"Unfortunately to date, both the major political parties have actively worked against the growth of our Port. They have denied solid science, defied public wishes and cunningly manipulated legislation to keep a lid on our region's future," says McCarthy.***

"The port doesn't just service Cairns. It is vital for the entire region, the Tablelands and Cape York."

"Former chief of the Australian Army Lieutenant General (Ret) John Grey also points out that the new Navy Offshore Patrol Vessels currently being built should be maintained here in Cairns rather than Adelaide or WA and I agree."

***"Changing the status of our Port from boutique to 'Strategic' would also make it a Federal government responsibility, then we can power ahead without the state government handbrake."***

"I have asked Bob Katter to ramp up the pressure on the Prime Minister to make this happen ASAP for the sake of the entire region and our economy," says McCarthy.

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**Media Enquiries: Daniel McCarthy Ph 0413 054 031**

