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Torres Strait locals pick up the slack for Government failure.

"I would like to congratulate the local people of Cape York and the Torres strait for protecting their traditional waters" says Daniel McCarthy KAP candidate for Leichhardt.

Cape & Torres strait people are well known for looking after their own patch and this weeks event of the JetSki fugitive being sprung launching at the Tip then spotted on Saibai island by locals (who then alerted the authorities) highlights the lack of government focus on protecting our borders.

The Australian border force along with the state and Federal police do a good job protecting our our borders.

Unfortunately the couple of recent incidents of people trying to escape the law and flee the country via the Torres Strait, along with the asylum seekers running aground in the mouth of the Daintree River last year highlights the governments failure to take protecting our borders seriously.

It's well known our northern border is breeched by drug and gun runners from time to time. It presents a quarantine and bio security risk along with people smuggler temptations.

"Clearly the Federal government needs to better resource our Border Force Agency. Our closest neighbouring countries are Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, they are right on our doorstep of the Torres Strait and our top end, literally within a couple miles of our closest islands. The border is so close deer actually swim between PNG and our islands.

Yet Presently there is no large border force boat in the Torres strait as they are both on the slip in Cairns for maintenance, this oversight by government is simply not good enough.

Being a long serving seafarer, having patrolled our waters for state and federal government agencies himself Daniel McCarthy has a good understanding of how our Border force is and should be run.

McCarthy's own father used to 'run the show' for Customs (now Border Force) for the entire top half of the country back in the 80's when the family first came to Cairns.

"I have the utmost respect for our Border Force troops, along with the state and federal police who work in these areas and the great job they do, unfortunately the Federal government has failed to resource them sufficiently to protect our northern border to the full extent required. They need more funding " says McCarthy.

"If elected to the seat of Leichhardt at the May election people can be assured protecting our borders will be a key priority" says McCarthy.

ENDS— Contact Dan for comment 0413054031