



MEDIA RELEASE

16th April 2019

Cairns Port \$24M is old news.

The outgoing member for Leichhardt is riding on the coat tails of a four-year-old announcement, that he made before the last election. The allocation of \$24M of Federal funds to three private shipyards, for a 4000-tonne syncrolift in a common user facility targeting the Navy OPV maintenance, has no land for the facility, and the project is yet to proceed.

One of the shipyards, BSE, moved privately to install a smaller 1120-tonne mobile boat hoist, targeting superyachts. The Federal Government has reportedly stumped up half of the \$16M cost.

"Is that all the member for Leichhardt can do for the port of Cairns? People in this city are still reeling from the loss of the Pacific Patrol Boat contract, a \$600M contract to build 19 patrol boats. We were hoodwinked into believing that we were going to have it and then and then it was given to Perth, to shore up Julie Bishops seat, many would argue. Cairns got nothing, and then we find out we were never really in the running for it. After this disappointment, it was announced that we would get the maintenance contract worth \$2B and what's happened to that? Nothing", says Daniel McCarthy.

The Government has managed to deliver the Reef 2050 Plan. **"The plan based on an ideology that is irrational and illogical is strangling our port and stifling future growth" says Daniel.** As a result of the Reef 2050 plan, we have a downscaled port improvement project, and once the project is complete, ALL FUTURE capital work to improve the shipping channel is BANNED indefinitely. **"The Federal government to add insult to injury, has contributed ZERO funds towards the project, while in Townsville their port project receives \$70M", says Daniel.**

"We need to expand our port. We need to bring back the original project, that removes the 4.4 million cubic metres from the shipping channel, to grow the regional economy. Cruising shipping is the world's fastest growing tourism sector, and we should be cashing in, creating jobs and filling city shops with visitors. Growing the port for bigger cruise, naval, fuel, sugar, fertiliser and bulk cargo ships is vital", says Daniel.

"Fred White, the CEO of Sea Swift, Australia's largest privately-owned freight shipping company, based in Cairns, has a terrific vision that I whole-heartedly support", says Daniel. The concept includes expanding our shipyards, cargo facilities and fuel storage to Admiralty Island. **"We need a Federal member that has some integrity and some fight in them, to make this vision turn into reality; otherwise, we will continue to go backward", says Daniel.**

Being part of a major political party does not guarantee that we are going to get anything; you only need to look at the last 20 years for proof. I have successfully dealt with the cross-benchers in the Senate over the coral sea zonings, while the member for Leichhardt has complained that they couldn't even get the crossbench to talk to them. I have a different approach, a different style of negotiating", says Daniel.

END---

Media Enquiries: Daniel McCarthy Ph 0413 054 031