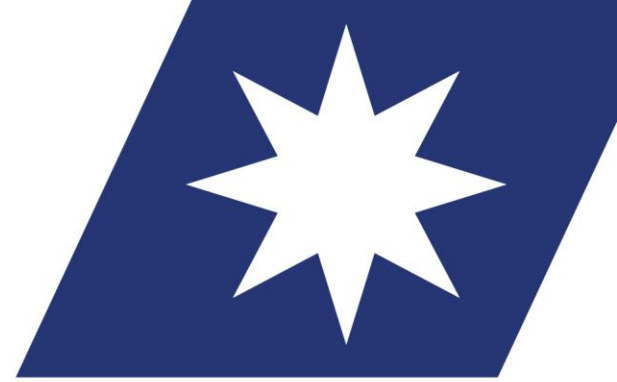


## BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



## MEDIA RELEASE

17 October 2018

### Give market gardens a go again – Katter

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter spoke in Parliament on Tuesday to call on the Government to restore a once thriving program of market gardens in the Cape and Torres Strait which provided significant health benefits to the local Indigenous communities.

The desperate call comes as new data reveals there were 72 deaths attributed to diabetes in the Cape York region last year; an outcome of which Mr Katter blames a lack of access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

Mr Katter said it was a "shame, sin and scar upon the soul of this Nation" that the market gardens were removed by the incoming Queensland ALP government when they discontinued the Department which ran the market garden program.

In his speech, Mr Katter said, "Of all deaths, two per cent are attributable to diabetes. There should be four diabetes deaths amongst the people living in the Torres Strait and Cape York (a population of 20,000), and in the Aboriginal communities of the Gulf: there have been 18 in a period of four years.

"The real number of deaths over four years is around 100. Because these people get sick with diabetes, they go to live in Cairns and Townsville and are not registered as from the Cape and Gulf when dying there.

"So 100 people are dying from diabetes who weren't dying previously, because the incoming Labor Government in Queensland closed down the market gardens on 28 communities.

"The Liberal government then banned all backyard gardens in the Torres Strait, so the people had all of their fresh fruit and vegetables removed. They do not have the money to buy the fresh fruit and vegetables because they're now all on welfare, and by the time the fresh fruit and vegetables get into the Gulf country—to Cape York and the Torres Strait—they are not fresh.

"On one of the eastern islands, seven per cent of the supermarket is rice: a Third World country!

"On another occasion, a long term Mayor kept shouting at me, "*Bobby, they're murdering our people*" when he found out they had abolished the market gardens. They did this because they were worried about diseases coming down from New Guinea. But there's been boats' coming down from that way since time was time so any threats of disease would already be here!

"People are dying who do not have to die and I call upon the government to restore the market gardens."

—ENDS—

# BOB KATTER

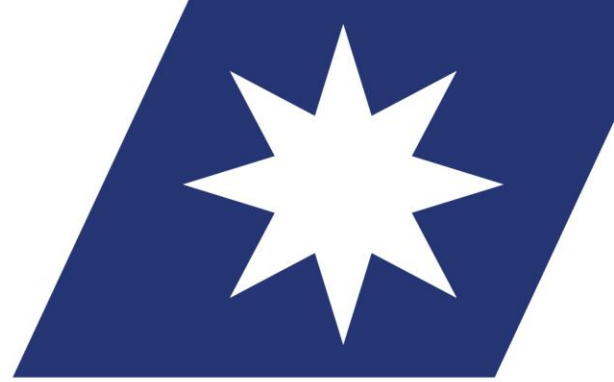
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## MEDIA RELEASE

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