

BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

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Katter supports National Integrity Commission but warns it is a 'two edged sword'

27 November 2018: KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has supported the need for a National Integrity Commission – but warns it is a “two edged sword” and could have disastrous implications toward innocent people if steps are not taken to protect them.

Mr Katter said a great example of the need to protect innocent people in the midst of corruption is the Qld Fitzgerald Inquiry, “I was one of the two Ministers in Queensland who made the decision to bring on the Fitzgerald inquiry, which changed the politics of Queensland. There were 54 murders or murder-suicides that had taken place in Queensland, and it turned out that they were attributable to one small group of policemen who became known as ‘the joke’,” Mr Katter said.

“If we'd had the Criminal Justice Commission, as we call it in Queensland, seven or more years before, would we have stopped all of those murders?,” Mr Katter asked.

“When the Criminal Justice Commission came into existence, it became a sort of ‘Star Chamber’/‘Spanish Inquisition’. Dozens, maybe a hundred, totally innocent people were hung, drawn and quartered without any real chance of defending themselves. In many of the cases, they were the courageous heroes that had been fighting corruption.

“One example was the then Premier of Qld (Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen) – he was a man of honesty and decency, but there was a person in there that just hated him - and then the newspaper headlines become ‘Minister under attack; referred to the Criminal Justice Commission’, from then on your name is besmirched.

“The National Integrity Commission Bill is a two-edged sword and I, of all people, found myself agonising over the vote, because I know how many innocents were sacrificed on the altar of public opinion in Qld,” Mr Katter said.

Mr Katter has praised fellow cross bencher Cathy McGowan Member for Indi for precipitating this Bill and has encouraged a bipartisan approach from the Government and Opposition to the Commission’s formation. A draft of the Bill details an anti-corruption agency with the powers of a royal commission; which can compel witnesses to appear before public or secret hearings, and has the ability to conduct retrospective investigations.

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