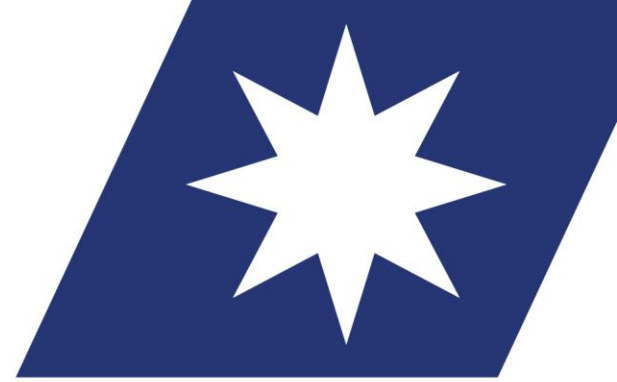


BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

26 April 2019

Relocation sentencing rises again as best answer to youth crime

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has once again advocated for relocation sentencing to tackle the youth crime crisis after reports revealed 104 cars were stolen in Townsville in one month.

Mr Katter said the State Government had known about the issue for at least a year and the ALP Government had done nothing except launch investigations.

"The relocation sentencing is simple, it's easy and it's cheap," Mr Katter said of KAP's policy.

"A person in a detention centre is currently costing well over \$500,000 per detainee, per year at \$1455 per day."

He explained the detention centre was only supposed to carry 90 detainees but was currently considered overcrowded with 70 detainees.

Fitting young criminals with bracelets may monitor their movements but Mr Katter said they were only as good as the policing of the bracelets.

"On one TV documentary, it detailed three murders committed by people wearing the bracelet," he said.

"It is one thing to wear the bracelet but it is another to have the police follow up on them."

Under a relocation sentencing structure, the people of Townsville would be moderately safe as miscreants would be placed 1,200 kilometres away and cost a mooted \$90,000 as opposed to around \$540,000 a year.

Traditional law, Buj-e-ka, would be applied – it means banishment and existed in Australia 200 years ago.

"If you played up in the old days, they didn't have prisons so you'd be sent out into the bush to live by yourself until you behaved like a civilised human being, and then and only then you'd be allowed back in the camp. So what we're saying is to bring back 'Buj-e-ka'. Goodbye, ta-da".

The proposed camp 'Bethlehem' would be near the Lake Julius Weir and be designed as self-sufficient, construction would be undertaken and youth would have a real chance at rehabilitation.

"At the present moment, there are only two options to child safety workers and the magistrates: probation, which is a bloody joke, or prison, delightfully referred to as 'detention'," Mr Katter said.

"Incarceration produces nothing except for the three months or six months that they are off the streets."

Relocation sentencing provided a third option, he said, and was a return to the banishment law in place a couple of centuries ago.

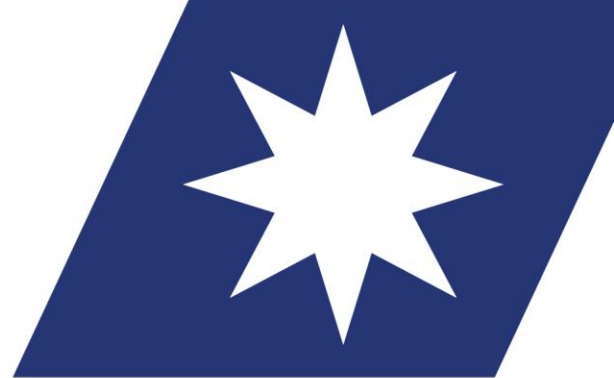
"So the offenders will vanish from Townsville and reappear near Kajabbi in the far west.

"They can't run away in the hottest place on earth, north of Mount Isa."

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Whilst the concepts are still being put together, Mr Katter said the young prisoners would build their own houses, source timber and grain, and learn skills applicable to working in a meatworks and butcher shop, as well as work cattle.

“They will return to society with a lot of life skills, and a lot of confidence in themselves,” Mr Katter said.

“A Queensland children’s service officer has said that if you send kids away to some incarceration centre, you send away a juvenile criminal and get back a professional criminal. The only success he’s seen has been from sending them out bush.”

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