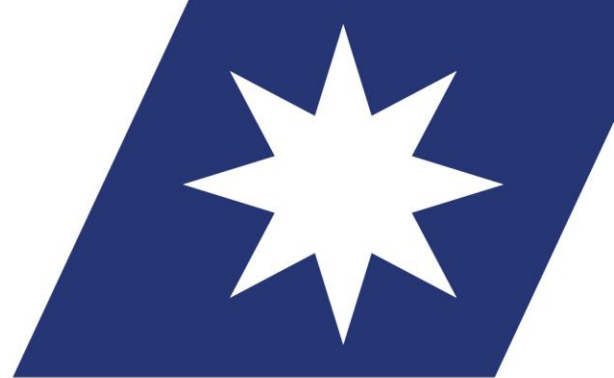


## **BOB KATTER**

Katter's Australian Party

**Federal Member for Kennedy**



## MEDIA RELEASE

27 June 2019

### **First Australians must fill mass Indigenous art souvenir void**

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has applauded the news that Birubi Art Pty Ltd has been fined \$2.5 million for producing and selling fake Indigenous art but warns that First Australians must fill the subsequent “mass market” void.

Mr Katter congratulated all the fighters involved in bringing the dodgy business into the limelight and into account.

“The time and effort put in by my office and others has been more than vindicated,” he said.

“We congratulate the people that started this fight.”

Mr Katter said the mass-production souvenir market must be filled by First Australians and proposed Yarrabah in Far North Queensland as a potential base.

“First Australians must fill the void that is left by this supplier.

“I cannot more strongly urge current manufacturers, and there is no easy way to say this, but to switch from focusing only on individual hand-crafted, handmade works of art, to supplying a two-fold market.

“One for top end high class hand-crafted works of art, and another for a similar product to be turned into mass-produced souvenirs at a price to suit the wider market for our tourists.

“We are currently having discussions with Yarrabah Council with a view of setting up a manufacturing production unit that will supply the market in places like Cairns, the Whitsundays, Surfers Paradise, and Sydney.”

Mayor Ross Andrews of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council agreed the idea was a step in the right direction for First Australian communities and called on the Prime Minister to engage in the plan.

“It a step in the right direction for cultural ownership of our indigenous art,” Mayor Andrews said.

“Our art is a form of storytelling and nobody but the indigenous people can or should recreate those stories.

“Authenticity of our artwork and acknowledgement of indigenous Australians should be at the forefront of discussions.

“I call on the Prime Minister to meet with Bob and myself to discuss a direction forward for our people and our stories.”

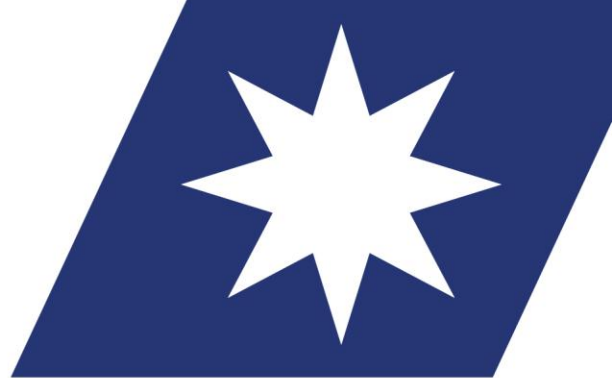
## **BOB KATTER**

Katter's Australian Party

**Federal Member for Kennedy**

---

## MEDIA RELEASE



The sale of imitation foreign-made Indigenous art that is sold in Australia is an issue that spans decades and it is estimated that 85 per cent of what is sold in souvenir shops and as Indigenous art is fake and imported by organisations like Birubi Art.

But with the demise of Birubi, unless local action is taken, it is a space likely to be filled by another dishonest organisation, Mr Katter said.

—ENDS—

Media Enquiries  
Kahla Kruger (nee Pike)  
0418 840 243