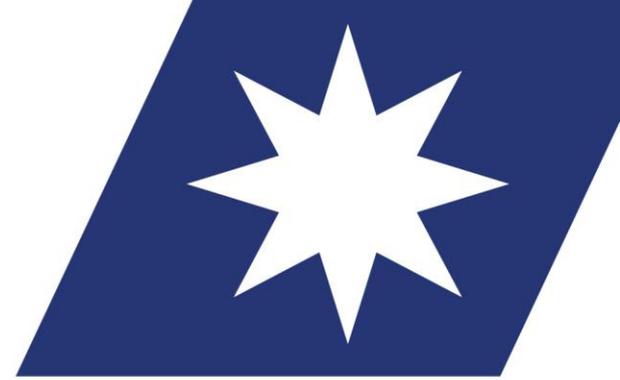


BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

28 January 2020

The wasted wet – 32 years no dams and counting

IF North Queensland was its own country, it is very likely that it would be the wettest country on earth, says KAP Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter.

Addressing the media in Townsville today, Mr Katter slammed the state and federal governments for failing to build dam projects such as the Revised Bradfield Scheme which would retain a small percentage of the region's yearly floodwater for irrigating and farming purposes.

Instead, Mr Katter said the floods continue to "tear" up the land and sweep the dirt and turbidity from wild pigs into the Great Barrier Reef.

"There is 320 million megalitres of water in North Queensland," he told media today.

"There are massive flood waters ripping, tearing and eroding the land and pouring out into the oceans.

"But those floods we have rip, tear and do absolutely immense destructive damage and they can be restrained by weirs and dams.

"You can overcome these issues by holding a little bit of water back", he said.

"We have 25 million pigs ripping apart North Queensland, disturbing the land and that dirt will be taken now from where the pigs are out onto the Reef causing infinitely more trouble.

"We don't have rivers in North Queensland. All we have is a flood and then a dry riverbed with a few water holes. We can't possibly hope to hold back more than 1 or 2% of the massive flood waters.

"Half of Australia's non desert is in the Murray Darling Basin, and all levels of Government have decided that 28% is all right to take out of the river.

"If you decided that for half of Australia outside of the deserts can take 28% and it is not going to damage anything, then how come we people in North Queensland are cut down to .3%. Can someone please explain that to me?!"

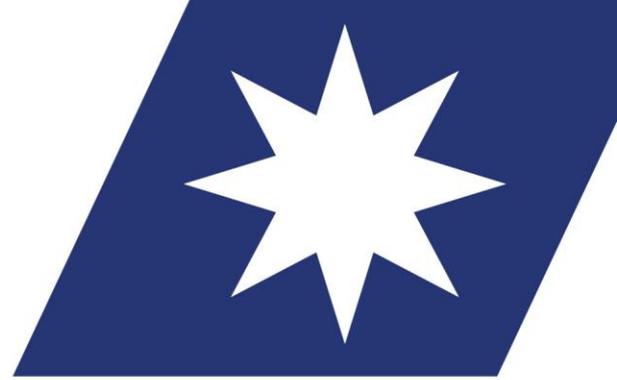
"Year after year, wet season after wet season I remind our government that there is a need for water infrastructure in the North yet the State Government tells me there is no water in the North to give. I would love to see the data they are working off because blind Freddy can see the mass amounts of water lost in my country every wet season. Both major parties have failed in this department and you have an entire country calling out for you to just do it."

Mr Katter said the last major flood event at Innisfail, a small-town south of Cairns, cost \$24m in recovery but that if the North Johnstone Transfer was built, that loss would not have occurred.

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“There has not been a single weir or dam built in Queensland in 30 years, since the much-maligned Bjelke Petersen Government went down. Prior to that we were building dams every year – Emerald and Burdekin falls being the last major dams built.

“So why could they do it, but no one has since had the confidence to put a shovel load of concrete across a gutter!” Mr Katter said.

Mr Katter said that the major flood events could be alleviated with the construction of the Revised Bradfield Scheme, protecting towns like Ingham from future flooding events.

Mr Katter blamed Governments past and present for listening to the wrong people for natural occurrences like fires and floods.

“They never take into account that Australia was here 200 years ago. 200 years ago, they knew if Ingham got a flood in the upper and lower simultaneously, there would be dire consequences for people living in that area.

“The First Australians remember the floods. The First Australians remember the fires. But we took no notice of them and now half of Australia has been burnt out with dozens and dozens of people burnt to death in the most terrible manner because you didn't listen to the First Australians and the accumulated knowledge that was there for 20,000 years.

“You ignored it. You spat on it. You listened to a bunch of vegans sitting on their backsides in their concrete jungles of Australia and they “know all about nature”. Well they can have it on their conscious the 30 people that have been burnt to death most cruelly in the fires.

“These imbeciles claim to know all about Australia when they've never set foot out of their concrete jungle. They might as well be in New York! They wouldn't know a tree from a goanna.

“But they had their say, they said “don't burn”, “don't clear” and now we have got what we got.”

—ENDS—