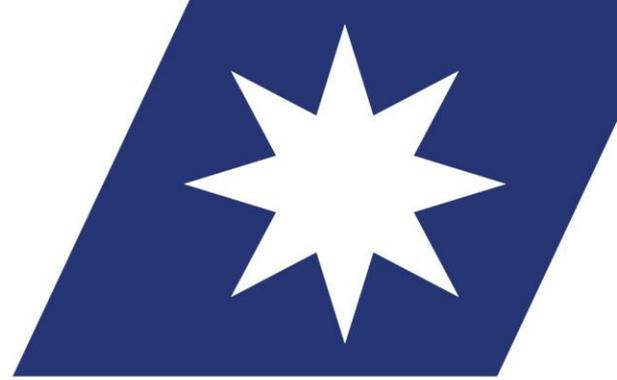


BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

26 February 2020

KAP 'salty' with Infrastructure Australia's desalination plan

KAP LEADER, Robbie Katter said there's clearly an aversion from any modern, 'progressive governments' to build dams or store water of any kind, to the point that they are willing to look at outlandish alternatives.

The State Member for Traeger said Governments and public servants will scrape the bottom of the barrel, even for water solutions that are not cost effective and have proven to be uneconomical, like desalination.

"It seems insane that particularly in the northern parts of Australia, where there are monsoonal conditions where all your water comes in flurry once a year, that we are not able to practically store water to sustain our communities and to foster development," he said.

Federal Member for Kennedy, Bob Katter Jnr. said he hadn't heard anything more stupid in his life than Infrastructure Australia's proposal to build desalination plants instead of dams as a solution to drought.

"More than \$10 Billion dollars has been burnt up on these types of projects around the country and hardly any of them have worked effectively at all," he said.

"Take the Gold Coast plant for example; it cost \$1.2 billion to build, it has operated in standby mode for long periods of time and the water produced is eight times more expensive than the normal drinking water supplied in Brisbane (ref: Dr A. Lynham).

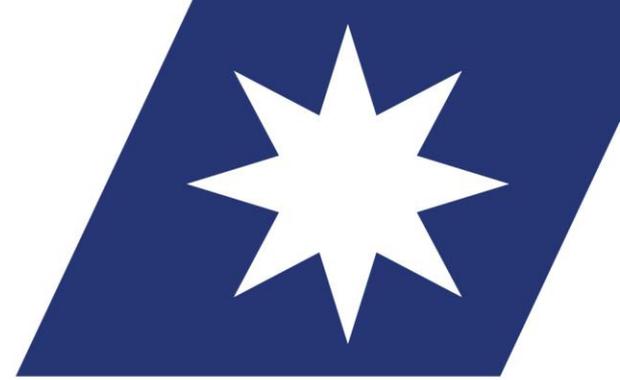
"Well there is the record of desalination plants laid bare. Infrastructure Australia seriously wants desalination over dams and the Bradfield Scheme? What is wrong with these people?"

Mr Katter said the super featherweight public servants did not stack up to Dr J.C. Bradfield, this country's greatest engineer.

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“He built the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Brisbane’s Storey Bridge, and the University of Qld. The Bradfield Scheme is the answer,” he said.

“I urge the Government to proceed with Hells Gates Dam and the Hughenden Irrigation project so inland Australia can be occupied and flourish.

“Building the 190,000 mega litre dam at Hughenden will cost more than \$400m and is projected to create \$70m in agricultural activity a year. The Government will get a 10 per cent return each year from tax revenue, which is far better than the 1 per cent they currently get.”

Mr Katter said if the Australian Government didn’t build the infrastructure for inland Australia then foreign investors would.

“The Chinese basically own the Port of Darwin and all of the Ord Stage Two and Three,” he said.

“A people without land will look for a land without people.”

—ENDS—

Reference: Anthony Lynham, Question on Notice (Qld Parliament) 17 May 2018

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/TableOffice/questionsAnswers/2018/643-2018.pdf#search=desalination>

To download Mr Katter’s speech:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GD9CXYrFAMNqqt_FCaEay6p_wq8Xq3u/view?usp=sharing