MEDIA RELEASE

6 March 2020

Youth Crime Crisis: Listen to the people

KATTER MPs, Nick Dametto and Bob Katter Jnr. have echoed the calls of a growing number of North Queenslanders demanding action on youth crime in the form of relocation sentencing.

The Member for Hinchinbrook and Member for Kennedy joined First Australian mentor Wayne Parker Snr. as well as Townsville Crime Committee members at a press conference in Townsville to call for immediate action.

Police statistics show Townsville recorded the highest number of unlawful entry offences ever last month and car theft offences were at the highest rate in eight years.

Mr Dametto said to stop crime you need a deterrent, relocation sentencing would act as a tough third option for magistrates to use against juvenile offenders who continue to break the law.

"Young offenders would be sentenced to six and twelve month stints at a remote location west of Mt Isa where they would be able to learn life skills on the land, reform and become responsible, productive members of society," he said.

"This policy has extremely strong support from indigenous groups and the wider community; we have offered this as solution to the State Labor Government numerous times over this term through direct meetings or on the floor of parliament.

"The fact is the state government refuses to listen."

Mr Katter said the youth crime problem goes on and on.

"This is similar to the lead up to the French or American Revolutions; the people will revolt," he said.

"They think they can just go on kicking people forever. The kids know they can go around and break into someone's house, steal the car keys and drive off.

"There's not much a Magistrate can do if they are underage and they go straight back to Child Services. If they are of age, well there's no room for them in the jails.

"The answer is relocation sentencing. Send them out bush and give the kids a skill set. The residents will live with peace and quiet and then everybody wins."

—ENDS—