

BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

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Katter asks PM to buy Aboriginal flag rights

KAP leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has written to Prime Minister Scott Morrison requesting the Government claim copyright ownership of the Aboriginal flag.

Mr Katter said it was unacceptable for any individual to 'own the rights' to the flag, which represents more than 3.3 per cent of the population, and dictate how it was used.

"It is outrageous that this great symbol which is respected throughout Australia has been used for commercial gain as is the case currently with the Queensland non-Indigenous, privately-owned organisation which currently owns the clothing licence," he explained.

If the purchase couldn't be made at a reasonable price, Mr Katter urged the Prime Minister to take the flag by compulsory acquisition.

However, he acknowledged problems arising from ownership by the Government and suggested the rights be handed to a respected body.

"The government hasn't always seen the world the way the First Australian community sees the world. Rather, the Government must give the rights to the distinguished and highly respected body, the Honours Council, chaired by Shane Stone, former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. The Honours Council is the appropriate body to choose the organisation or company who will own the rights to the logo," Mr Katter said.

Importantly, he said a legal situation should be avoided where anyone at all could use the flag.

"I specifically reference one example where the Aboriginal flag was used in a nefarious way by an American racist organisation that had branches in Australia."

Purchasing the flag would also allow local community groups to freely use it without backlash.

"Our sporting bodies, our communities, our schools and our businesses should all be able to use the Aboriginal flag without fear of being issued a 'Cease and Desist' notice or threatened with legal action," Mr Katter said.

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