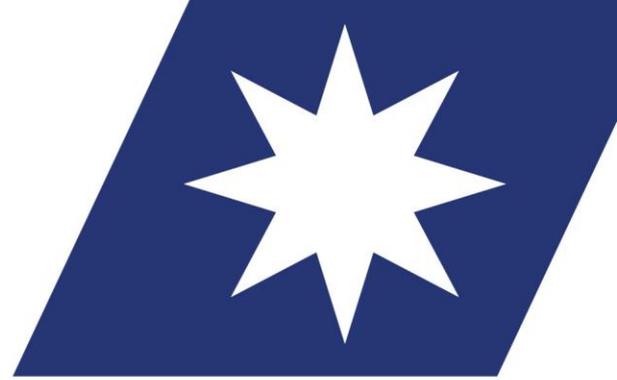


BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

06 August 2019

Katter tells Qld Gov to 'give us a hand'; stop prickly trees from sterilising the land!

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter met with the Minister for Agriculture, Bridget McKenzie and also addressed the issue of Prickly Acacia with the Deputy Prime Minister in Parliament last week, warning that recent flooding has seen an explosion in the seed spreading and that Australia now faces the "worst environmental apocalypse".

The Prickly Acacia infestation has spread through and completely destroyed a tenth of North Queensland's landmass and is now at risk of sterilising food and fodder producing soils which will starve cattle and decimate any possibility for future food production if the State Government does not honour the joint Federal/State commitment to control the noxious weed.

"We already have one tenth of our North Queensland landmass completely destroyed by prickly acacia infestation," Mr Katter said.

"Where you once marvelled at the great Mid-West grasslands – it is now on the brink of a Prickly Acacia run environmental apocalypse. This tree is just a thorn bush for most of the year, nothing grows underneath it. All native flora and fauna has been destroyed and the most endangered species, the dunnart is a goner - if the Prickly Trees don't get it then the pigs will.

"We need immediate action and we've told the Minister that we need immediate action. There are now 10 million hectares overrun with these trees.

"We have urged in the strongest way it starts at the top of the catchment, and with the Hughenden Irrigation development (HIPCo) we will be able to clear almost all the Prickly Trees from Hughenden all the way up to Richmond – almost a third of the entire catchment of the Flinders River will be cleared of these trees."

Mr Katter said the entire region will be destroyed if the Qld ALP Government does not front up with their \$5 million, a promise made prior to the Federal election and subsequently pulled.

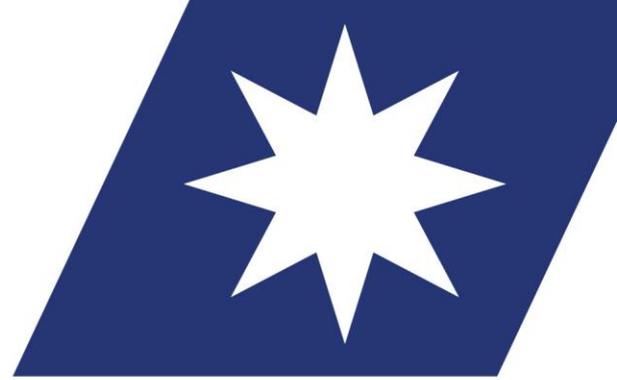
Mr Katter said he advised the Government that experienced local bodies such as Southern Gulf Catchments and Desert Channels are already accredited to receive federal funding, are experienced and well established to administer quality control of prickly acacia should the Federal Government opt to go at it alone.

"They make big being anti-coal and wanting tourism to be stopped on the Great Barrier Reef, but they want to look in their own back yard before they start pointing the finger. This place is nothing more than "National Sparks and Wildfires" (as they are known in north Queensland), nothing more than pig nurseries and fire starters.

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“If the State Government doesn’t want to assist their own back yard and put measures in place to control the enormous problem our land now faces, then give it to the people on the ground that actually care for our environment and the people who manage it daily.

“Any promises made by the Qld ALP Government between now and the state election next year are not worth two bob”.

—ENDS—