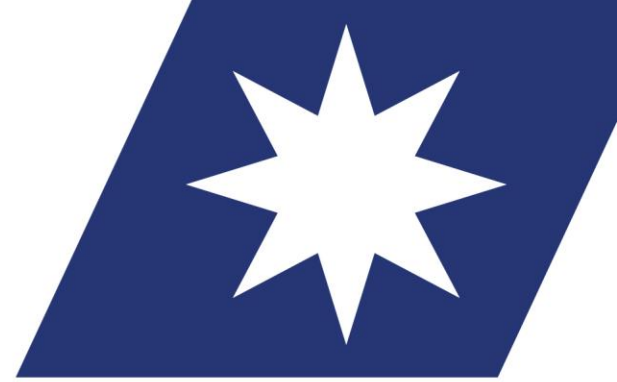


BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

13 January 2019

Katter Flabbergasted: Western Queensland weather radars down for scheduled maintenance during cyclone season

The Mount Isa and Longreach Bureau of Meteorology rain radars are both simultaneously out of action for 'routine' and 'corrective' maintenance, despite it being the start of the monsoon and cyclone season.

Residents, farmers, and graziers from Blackall to Burketown were given no prior warning of the outage and are understandably furious.

Kennedy MP, Bob Katter is wondering whether the bureaucrats who scheduled the maintenance came down in the last shower?

"Only 12 months ago half a million livestock were lost during severe flooding from a monsoonal rain event," Mr Katter said.

"Now they think it's appropriate to schedule maintenance on two vital radars during the middle of the wet season?"

"We have the most volatile weather in the country, with the highest rainfall, and the Government thinks it's a good idea to take our only source of data offline?"

"Why wasn't this done during winter?"

"Farmers, mining camps, ships at sea, residents and tourists all use these services to prepare and proactively manage risks.

"Cyclone and Monsoon events can come on suddenly and every bit of information counts."

Mr Katter is calling on the Federal Government to build rain radars every 250 kilometres in regional Australia.

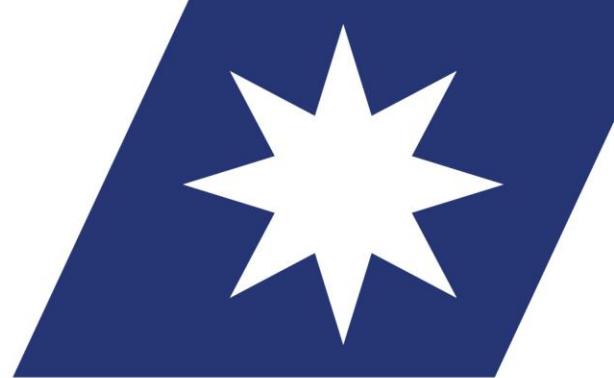
"The Federal Government promised to build new radars at Hughenden and Richmond, but they won't be delivered for another two years – this isn't acceptable." Mr Katter said.

"The construction of a radar at Croydon is also a priority, as the Mornington Island radar can go down for months at a time.

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MEDIA RELEASE

“Queensland’s beef export industry is worth more than \$5 Billion annually, much of which is produced in the central and north west of the state.

“These hard working battlers do not deserve to be left in the dark when it comes to getting a weather forecast.”

—ENDS—