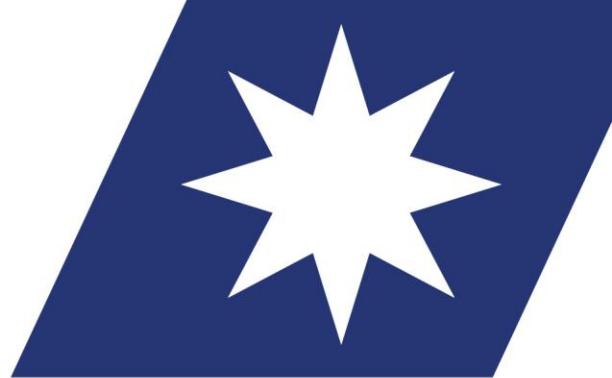


ROBBIE KATTER

Member for Traeger



MEDIA RELEASE

June 30, 2020

KAP CALLS FOR MINISTER TO STEP IN OVER PUB FINES

Katter's Australian Party leader and Traeger MP Robbie Katter has called for the Police Minister to intervene after struggling outback Queensland pubs were slapped with fines at the weekend for breaching COVID-19 social distancing rules.

Mr Katter said it was beyond outrageous that the Palaszczuk Labor Government was presiding over a system that hits outback businesses in the hip-pocket, but gives a free pass to 30,000-plus people attending a single protest in downtown Brisbane.

He is now calling for Police Minister Mark Ryan, or the Premier, to overturn the fines in the interest of community fairness and decency.

"Rural, regional and remote Queensland had been among the hardest hit locations economically during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite many areas not recording a single positive case of the virus," he said.

"We have been saying all along that it is nonsensical for the outback to be persecuted under the same rules as the city, and now we are seeing this unfairness in reverse.

"The bush has been grossly and unfairly targeted – what are they trying to achieve here?"

According to the ABC, Queensland Police confirmed three businesses at Roma, Injune and Wallumbilla had been fined during a 'police sting' where plain-clothes officers were not asked for contact details, and because social distancing was not properly enforced.¹

Kennedy MP Bob Katter said the weekend's events were another example of regional Queensland bearing the burden of the south-east corner.

"Once again Brisbane is applying ridiculous rules to regional Queensland that should only apply to the metropolis," Mr Katter Snr said.

¹ "Roma pub owner criticises plain-clothes Queensland Police officers for COVID-19 fine", ABC News, June 30, 2020, Retrieved from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-30/pub-slams-social-distancing-fine-from-plainclothes-police/12403858?fbclid=IwAR0Wi9pFTx5xakWGXUIGIEzXpI15Dyo7wOERgijGG0vFYdXxkF6UghNEvTc>

ROBBIE KATTER

Member for Traeger



MEDIA RELEASE

"I mean oh ghee, we've had a huge coronavirus outbreak in the town of Injune - the only area that ever needed quarantining was Brisbane. The only cases we got were the ones they sent us.

"Some 150 doctors signed a petition calling for regional areas to be protected off.

"There was never a case for the draconian lockdowns and the destruction of the economy of every regional Queensland town.

"As Slim Dusty's song goes, 'I've got the pub and general store what's the use in anymore.'

"Close the pub and there is no town - it is the very existence of these communities; these pub owners have already suffered a huge financial burden during the last four months, so this could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

"The local coppers traditionally have known policing needs the cooperation of the people.

"This piece of jackbooted Brisbane-ism will be remembered."

—ENDS—

Media inquiries: Morgan Oss, 0428 772 544