



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cairns MPs claim credit for upgrade they had no part in securing

THE Member for Leichhardt was seen parading himself at the site of a new highway upgrade on the southern side of Cairns this morning; a project that he played no part in securing, and is not even in his electorate, Kennedy MP Bob Katter has said.

“On the northern side of Cairns, his electorate, there is nothing – the roads are notoriously old, congested and unsafe,” he said.

“However, on the southern side, the Kennedy electorate has all this largesse because I’ve had meeting, after meeting, after meeting with all the officials who make the decisions on these projects.

“The need for highway upgrades were raised with me and fought for by Fran Bailey from the Edmonton Traders Group, Brett Moller at the Gordonvale Chamber of Commerce and Edmonton supermarket owner Peter Piccone.”

The stage 3 upgrade of the Cairns Southern Access Corridor was secured largely with federal money following meetings with LNP Ministers, Bob Katter said.

“It had nothing to do with the State Transport Minister or the Member for Mulgrave,” he said.

“It’s a federal government highway, and they’re just riding on our coattails ahead of an election.

“In fact, they are running scared of us. The KAP and One Nation’s combined first preference vote is above 31% in north Qld (based on the 2017 election figures), the Member for Leichhardt’s mob, the LNP is on just 27% and the ALP is on 30%. They are running scared big time.

“Look at the southern side of Cairns, under KAP representation, with its \$400m in overpasses and \$700m in four-lane divide highway upgrades, and then compare that to the northern side. The results speak for themselves.”

Mr Katter said he was also fighting for a new road from Mareeba to Redlynch known as the ‘Bridle Track’, the brainchild of a number of Tablelands landowners and business people.

“Main Roads are now doing a study into the best route down, and I asked if any other representations had been made from other MPs, about the project, but there had been none. Yet when we get a breakthrough these typical big party politicians will come out claiming the glory.”

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