




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Katter Sr, Mr R

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.48 pm): The Native Title Act 1993 is a federal act of parliament in response to the common law rights arising out of the High Court decision in Mabo. The Mabo decision is now 20 years old and to say it was a landmark case that is enshrined in the law of our land is an understatement. As I recall it, the decision even rated a mention in the iconic movie *The Castle*: 'It's the vibe ... it's Mabo.'

Therefore, it beggars belief that Bob Katter, the federal member for Kennedy, one of the largest rural electorates in Queensland, with some 30 years experience in politics and the founder of the de facto party over there, has never heard of the Mabo decision or the Native Title Act. I quote from a letter to the Hon. Jenny Macklin, federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, from the Hon. Bob Katter. He states—

Dear Minister

Re Land Tenure upgrade

The State Government claims that they cannot do a tenure upgrade because of Federal Government legislation and restrictions. I am not aware of any such restrictions that would be constitutionally valid since the State Government have power over Lands.

Could you confirm in writing that if the State Government requires an ILUA before any land tenure upgrades can take place, could you therefore advise how we would go about obtaining permission from your Department to enable the State Government to issue upgraded title deed. If not we will ask you to process a number of such applications as obviously your Department is handling tenure upgrades in Queensland.

I do not believe this is the case and request that you confirm this position in writing or otherwise process the applications that we will forward.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bob Katter

Member for Kennedy

As I said, it beggars belief that the Hon. Bob Katter, the founder of the Katter party and the member representing one of Queensland's largest rural electorates, does not even have a basic understanding of the native title process as it affects pastoral leases in Queensland.