




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

ADJOURNMENT

Katter's Australian Party

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (9.44 pm): It is with regret that I use a valuable opportunity to speak tonight on political game play, but it behoves me to address the constant mistruths being delivered in this House that compromise its very integrity. It appears to be entertaining for people to try their hardest to associate our party with the ALP. While very amusing at times, it proved to be a very effective federal election strategy that cost our party very many votes. Unfortunately, it was entirely deceitful and compromised section 329 of the Electoral Commission Act, which restricts deceptive advertising. This deceitful message was considered serious enough that Murdoch press had legal advice to discontinue the ads lest they be exposed to litigation. However, this deceitful campaign did not stop the LNP hammering away the same message across Queensland. It is a terrible and disappointing way to start a new tenure of the federal government by tearing down the opposition with a lie.

The interesting point to make is that reported in the *Australian* today, with senior LNP MPs advising that the focus on trying to get rid of Bob Katter and Katter's Australian Party denied them the opportunity to win marginal seats in Brisbane. The article states—

But in doing so they took money and resources that should have gone into marginal Labor-held seats and threw it at Katter.

Let us consider, for a moment, the irony of this. The then opposition spent so much time, resources and effort trying—it would seem unsuccessfully—to unseat Bob Katter that it inadvertently delivered four seats back to Labor. I think we can all see the irony in that. Bob Katter ended up voting Liberal in the balance of power.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr Hopper interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Condamine, I can see there is cross-interaction on the backbenches, but the member has the call.

Mr KATTER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Bob Katter offered the then opposition leader Tony Abbott a vote of no confidence in writing prior to the last change in Labor leaders. Subsequently, that offer was not taken up and he offered support then to Kevin Rudd to overtake Julia Gillard, which was misrepresented as support for Kevin Rudd over the coalition, which was again deceitful. Claims that he held them in power are ignorant, poorly informed or plain mistruths.

If this was used as a deceitful election strategy to defeat the KLP, so be it. That is probably clever and good on you. However, to carry it on now reflects very poorly on the integrity of members. To perpetuate this message proves either complete ignorance or a disregard for the integrity of the House. The people in the Kennedy electorate are confronted with enormous economic adversity and were seeking some good debate in the last election. Unfortunately, all they were delivered was political spin and we were left to defend ourselves, to try to deliver the truth to people. We should have been talking about the cattle grazing industry, we should have been talking about the dairy industry, we should have been talking about small business—

(Time expired)