




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2013

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Member for Kennedy

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (3.32 pm): Yesterday both my father and I were subjected to a continuation of personal attacks. It is generally accepted in the cut and thrust of parliament that that will occur, but if it is done in a misleading fashion then I object to it, and I object to it on behalf of Queenslanders. If the Premier and the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing made those statements outside the House, I would love to test the truthfulness of them.

I refer to the assertion that in some bizarre way my father is responsible for or associated with the live-export ban. This demonstrates either complete ignorance of the issue or politicisation of the issue, both of which are abhorrent.

Let us investigate the validity of the statement. Firstly, in terms of the balance-of-power vote in 2010, under intense pressure Bob Katter voted to go with the coalition. After the live-export decision he then called for the removal of the Gillard government. The live-export decision which devastated the industry occurred on 8 June 2011.

As a concerned citizen, I attended a large rally in Mount Isa which attracted some 500 people and national media. Two people erupted at that public meeting and attacked Joe Ludwig. One was Bob Katter and the other was close friend of mine Neil Byrne, who is an electrician and horse trainer in Mount Isa. He was escorted from the premises. No-one from the LNP who was there demonstrated any anger—my father did.

Following that my father went down to Canberra and moved a motion in parliament to reverse the decision. He discussed his motion with coalition members. They were very receptive and supported him. The motion was voted down in parliament. He attacked the minister in an aggressive way on the same issue through a question without notice. I table both documents for members of parliament to read.

Tabled paper: Extract from Commonwealth parliament *Hansard*, dated 20 June 2011—motion and speech by the federal member for Kennedy, Mr Bob Katter MP, titled 'Live Animal Exports' [[3952](#)].

Tabled paper: Extract from Commonwealth parliament *Hansard*, dated 31 May 2011—question without notice by the federal member for Kennedy, Mr Bob Katter MP, titled 'Live Animal Exports' [[3953](#)].

I left that meeting very underwhelmed given that no-one else put up any strong opposition. I was involved in discussions on this in April or May this year. We did a lot of organising to hold a forum in Richmond. It was to be a bipartisan forum with involvement from everyone. We want people to understand this rural crisis. We did not want to grandstand. It had to be a bipartisan forum. We still attracted criticism that we were not sitting up the front at the meeting. I was taught never to grandstand.

The rural crisis committee that was formed was well received in Canberra by both sides of politics. I pay tribute to the committee. At the beginning of 2013 a quota of 269,000 was placed on the live-export trade to Indonesia. Following the rural crisis committee meeting in Canberra, my father organised a tour of Karumba for the Indonesian ambassador. Two days later he had a meeting with his president. My father met with our then Prime Minister and two weeks later an announcement was made by the Indonesian ambassador. But of course he had nothing to do with that! These statements being made are misleading and are unbecoming of the parliament and should be taken back.