




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

RSPCA

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.38 pm): I rise to talk about the RSPCA. ‘All creatures great and small’—I remember the ad. It depicted some lovely animals on the screen. Everyone delightedly donated money to them. My wife did, but once I told her what they are really about she changed her view, as would many people in country towns around Queensland if they knew.

Let us put the microscope on some of the things they do and the impact they have on people in rural and regional areas particularly. The RSPCA publicly states that it: opposes recreational hunting, even that which occurs to control pest species such as feral pigs, cats and dogs; opposes the live export of sheep, cattle and goats for slaughter; opposes the hunting of wild animals for meat such as kangaroos; promotes extreme changes to Queensland’s horse sports and other animal industries—they are opposed to rodeos entirely, thanks a lot; and wants changes to the on-farm treatment of animals.

As I said, everyone thinks that the RSPCA is about dogs and cats. We have a wonderful animal rehoming program in Mount Isa—Paws Hoofs and Claws. A beautiful lady by the name of Sue Carson dedicates her life to that organisation. She ruins about a car a year transporting animals around the place. I got a rescue dog from her. I have two rescue horses at home. That is real action. Most people do that willingly because most people have compassion. Usually in a rural area people live amongst these things. We seem to forget that we do not need to legislate for and control everything in people’s lives. Most of the time we sort things out pretty well ourselves. We do a wonderful job of that in Mount Isa.

The RSPCA is a big corporation that had \$58 million in revenue in 2019-20. It had a profit of \$8.7 million last year. The other day it sold a designer dog for rehoming purposes for \$4,500. I get my dogs from Paws Hoofs and Claws for \$100 or \$150. These people seem to have an encroaching influence on policy. We are even engaging them to help us write policy.

These people have gone way beyond where they should. I have had multiple reports of them going into veterinary practices and pet shops without warrants. I have an example of an unqualified person saying to someone, ‘Those six chooks look underweight.’ After closer scrutiny it was found that there was nothing wrong with the chooks. They just had an unqualified person trying to create mischief around the place, which they consistently do. There are more and more stories like this.

It is not hard to join the dots here. There is a wonderfully fertile environment out there for people who support veganism, have progressive attitudes and believe everyone is doing bad things. It is wonderfully fertile ground for these people to operate on. Now they have moved onto pig hunting. They are always at us in terms of horse sports. A lady was prosecuted for pig hunting the other day. Now they are going to target us for that. I shoot pigs and feral cats. I am doing a good job for the Queensland environment. If we are talking about all creatures great and small, I point out that one feral cat will kill 370 invertebrates, 44 frogs, 285 reptiles, 130 birds and 390 mammals per year. Thank you very much.

I shoot cats and pigs for the good of others. I do not send the government an invoice at the end. I do not want to be judged or criticised for it. Many people out there are doing the job for the taxpayers of Queensland. We are keeping hold on the numbers of feral pigs, cats and dogs. The government is not doing a good enough job of this. That is why people out there are doing it for free. If the government wants them to start charging for this because it is going to legislate and bring the hammer down around this then they will stop doing it, but it will still have the problem. The government might have to start paying for it.

The government should think about this when it is engaging organisations like the RSPCA. They come in and tell them what to do. It will win lots of votes in Brisbane because all those people donating money think they are looking after all creatures great and small. It is a nice little political bubble it can live in but there will be real consequences. These problems will not go away. They are only going to get worse. They are biosecurity problems. As I said, the government has people doing this for free and they will continue to do it if it leaves them alone. It needs to understand that most people have compassion. It is not urban people who have a mortgage on compassion for animals. People in rural and regional areas love them too. The rodeo horses get cared for a hell of a lot better than horses in the wild.

The government continually encroaches on these things and it is done without due consideration of the damage it does, not just to our lifestyle but to biodiversity. We have to understand what the RSPCA is about. It is a very wealthy corporation that is engaging well beyond its reach and where it should be influencing people. Some of those things are destructive to our way of life in Queensland and Australia.