




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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ADJOURNMENT

North Queensland

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.18 pm): This morning in a question to the Premier I made reference to self-determination and possible statehood for North Queensland. That often gets misrepresented in the media as a political stunt or a joke. However, it is addressing the chasm between the investment and the policy decision-making in relation to the people of North Queensland and those in South-East Queensland. This evening I want to put that in the context of coal, crime and crocs.

When it comes to coal, we are looking at \$16 billion in royalties to governments at the federal and state levels as we are driving towards net zero. A lot of people in North Queensland do not have that same deep determination to get to net zero. They are quite happy with the coal industry and the jobs it provides and the money it gives to the hospitals and schools. It is a highly hypocritical position of the government to oversee the wind-up of coal-fired power stations while it is still willing to sell it to everyone overseas. We are all patting ourselves on the back talking about what we are opening, but there are a lot of people trying to shut it down. The government cannot reconcile getting to net zero and getting rid of coal. A lot of people in North Queensland see the value in coal and want to retain the industry.

Turning now to crime, we have been told for the last four or five years that youth crime is a media beat-up and the KAP were trying to get headlines. It was not a beat-up. We all know that now. As soon as it hit Brisbane it became an issue for the government. It is a little bit offensive to those of us who have these high crime rates that all of a sudden it gets attention when it hits the media in Brisbane. That makes one think we should have better representation up here.

Everyone thinks it is a big joke to talk about crocs, but it is pretty serious. It is a management issue. We want to have a mature debate about it so it can be done properly. We are still facing ridiculous propositions such as being told to put up more signs and tell people to be more careful in the water, which is a euphemism for do not swim in your waters anymore. That is the solution. We are a bit sick of being told what to do.

I will talk about roads as well. We have been talking about Doomadgee and trying to get a crossing so that a town in this modern age cannot be cut off for four months by road while we are celebrating an \$8 billion Cross River Rail so people in Brisbane can get to work 10 minutes earlier. How can that be a fair use of resources in this state? How can that work unless we have better representation? We are heading for another redistribution where we are going to have to put more seats in Brisbane because that is where the population is. We are going to have to take them away from here. We can look forward to less representation in this parliament when it is already bleeding. There needs to be change. We need a North Queensland parliamentary council or decentralised departments.