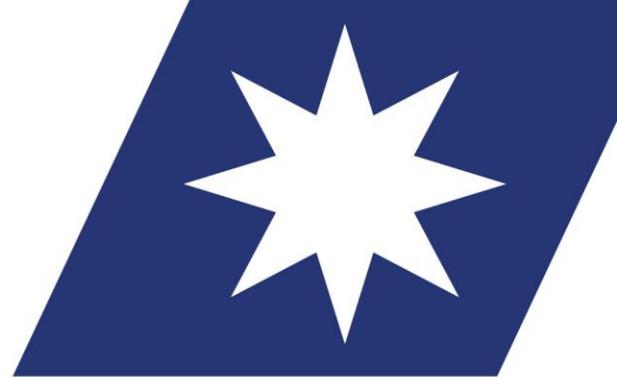


ROBBIE KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Traeger



MEDIA RELEASE

April 13, 2018

BUSH MISSES OUT ON PUBLIC SERVICE BOOST

South East Queensland has been the beneficiary of the Palaszczuk Government's public service binge at the expense of regional Queensland.

Katter's Australian Party State Leader and Member for Traeger Robbie Katter said the unbalanced figures were further proof that Brisbane had little to no interest in best serving the people of rural Queensland.

"In regional, rural and remote areas the loss of government services and employment during Campbell Newman's time as Premier was felt more acutely than in the city," he said.

"It's disappointing though not surprising to see that a vast majority of the Palaszczuk Government's new public servants are based in the South East corner.

"The government seems to hang its hat on the fact they've increased the number of public service jobs.

"But they fail to mention that this has come at a cost to regional Queensland tax payers who foot the bill for the additional workers but don't receive any of the flow-on economic benefits of the employment."

During the period from 2015-2017, the Queensland Government hired a whopping 22,103 new public servants.

This is according to figures in the Queensland Government's December, 2017 public sector quarterly workforce profile, which were released this week.

Out of these full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, 18,158 (or 82.15 per cent) were in South East Queensland, and 3756 of these jobs were in inner-city Brisbane alone.

Further north, a total of 3712 jobs were added in areas including Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. This equates to around 16.7 per cent of overall jobs created.

The bush was ignored almost completely, with only 233 jobs (around 1 per cent) added in the Queensland - Outback region.

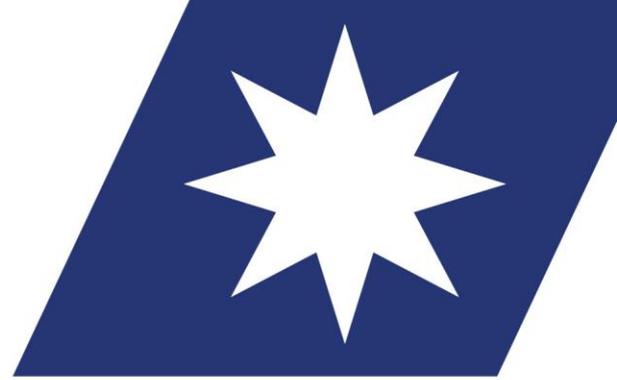
Mr Katter also highlighted the diminishing service levels in regional Queensland.

"The consolidation of government services to major centres like Brisbane further compounds issues for regional Queenslanders as they must travel long distances at great costs to get services," he said.

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"People in these areas are screaming out for better access to government services but it's clear no-one is listening."

—ENDS—

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