

NICK DAMETTO
Member for Hinchinbrook



MEDIA RELEASE

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KAP duo keeps up fight for region

NEWLY re-elected Katter's Australian Party MPs Shane Knuth and Nick Dametto will carry the hopes of the North on their shoulders as they embark on a new parliamentary term.

The pair, who represent the neighbouring electorates of Hill and Hinchinbrook, said they would continue to fight hard for vital infrastructure projects and services as well as hold Labor to account for the promises made during the election campaign.

Mr Knuth said he was "very humbled" by the results and support that he received from people in the Hill electorate during this campaign.

"I want to say thank you to everyone for their support, especially to the volunteers who helped out during the countless hours of pre-polling and election day," he said.

"I am disappointed that **the** Labor will govern in their own right, however, even with their majority, this will not stop us from pushing the big issues and getting better outcomes for rural and regional Queensland, especially for our farmers, dairy industries, water infrastructure, health services, roads and other industries."

Mr Dametto said he would be making sure Labor followed through on its promised reduction in irrigated water tariffs, renal dialysis for Ingham Hospital and \$4.3 million towards a new sewage treatment plant at Port Hinchinbrook.

"While not the KAP's preferred model of a 25 per cent cut to irrigated water tariffs across the board, Labor did promise a tariff cut of 50 per cent for fruit and vegetable growers and 15 per cent for broad-scale crops like sugar cane from July 1 next year. Any tariff cut is welcome but I'll be lobbying the incoming Agriculture Minister to try and make this policy fairer to all irrigators no matter what crops they farm," Mr Dametto said.

"The KAP will also be introducing its Bill to repeal Labor's farm-destroying Reef regulations within the first 100 days of the new parliament. To date, the LNP has refused to support our Bill which speaks volumes about why they failed to make a dent in North Queensland. Pandering to inner-city voters has backfired spectacularly for them.

"Katter's Australian Party unashamedly supports our agricultural sector and we are the only party to stand up to the Green extremists of the south-east who are on a mission to end all farming."

With construction of Port Hinchinbrook's sewage treatment plant scheduled to commence by mid-2021, Mr Dametto said the complete dredging of One Mile Creek remained his "top priority" for Cardwell.

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"After playing my part to help secure \$1.5 million in Federal funding to dredge One Mile Creek in October last year, it's clear we will need much more funding to complete the project and I believe it's incumbent upon the State Government to deliver that," Mr Dametto said.

"I'd like to acknowledge the strong support of local businesses and residents over the last three years. Without them, we could not have got this far in solving some of our region's long-standing problems."

Mr Dametto said he would not tolerate any backtracking of promises Labor made to Hinchinbrook during the election campaign.

Mr Knuth said having Mr Dametto as his neighbouring MP had proven to be "highly beneficial".

"It's given us more of an opportunity to push similar issues that are important to our regions," he said.

"We will continue to work together to tackle the issues affecting our regions and raising them in Parliament."

Mr Knuth said he would continue to get out to all the communities in his electorate to talk to people and push the issues in the region.

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Photo caption:

Hill MP Shane Knuth and Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto are looking forward to representing their electorates once more in a new term of parliament.

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