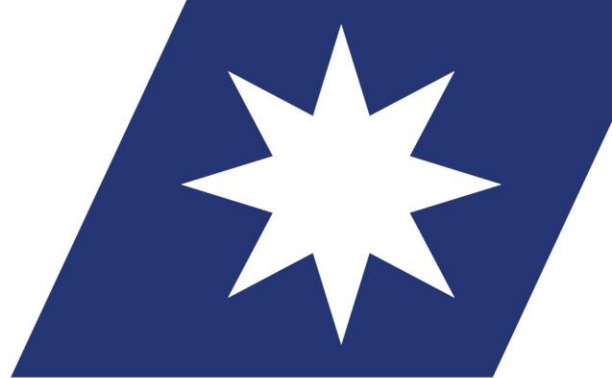


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

Calling on the Queensland Government to quarantine the North, Member for Hill Shane Knuth has written to the Premier demanding that non-essential travel into north Queensland should stop immediately to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

He said the north needed to be quarantined to reduce the strain on health care workers, hospitals and resources.

The KAP have sponsored an e-petition calling for all regional areas across Queensland to be quarantined from the south-east corner, where the majority of confirmed cases, 493, currently are with 28 confirmed cases from Mackay north.

"I encourage northerners to sign this e-petition to quarantine Northern Queensland borders to non-essential interstate travel from the south-east until further notice," Mr Knuth said.

"Doctors have backed the call and now many other northern MPs are coming on board.

"Now is the time to act before the virus spreads further and puts strain on our hospitals.

"There is already evidence that there is a lack of ventilators, masks, and personal protective gear and not to mention staff resources."

He said COVID-19 was causing a lot of financial and emotional pressure on everyone which was why the spread needed to be stopped.

"North Queensland in part is already isolated from the majority but the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to cut it off at the knees," Mr Knuth said.

"Numbers are low at this time with just 12 cases in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service area, however, they are increasing every day.

"There are only three ways for more cases to come in and that is through air, sea and the south.

"The Northern Territory is already closed off to protect remote communities.

"It is time the threat is dealt with so everyone can get back to their everyday lives and businesses can reopen and employ workers."

Mr Knuth said many smaller regional centres have a high percentage of aged populations, but do not have the capabilities to treat an outbreak of COVID-19, should in reach smaller and remote communities.

"Our hospitals are not equipped and resourced for a mass outbreak with a critical shortage of ventilators and personal protective gear," he said.

"That is why we need as many people as possible to sign the e-petition and for the government to close off the north before it is too late and hospitals in the north are overloaded."

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MEDIA RELEASE

www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3315&fbclid=IwAR3gWanN8X7rPr6_posVUm8gNFysMGSws8QLUryOWqjTmCzsCm41vBa5p3g

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