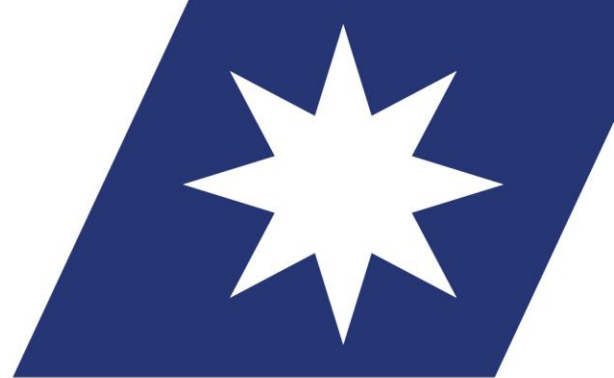


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

Lakes and parks have now been closed for recreational use, but the Government is encouraging people to exercise out on the water, this makes no sense.

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said he has written to Minister for Transport Mark Bailey to question his decision of encouraging people to head out on their kayaks or stand up paddle board for exercise while the government closes lakes, dams and weirs stopping resident from using the lake.

"Sunwater has closed their recreation areas, dams, lakes and weirs and told the public that all land and water-based activities including swimming, boating, skiing, fishing and kayaking, is prohibited," Mr Knuth said.

"Why then is the minister encouraging people to live their lives as normally as they can and telling them to get out and kayak for exercise.

"Tinaburra users are being told that they aren't allowed to do their usual morning/day kayak for exercise or even go fishing.

"The question is, why if still observing social distancing rules, can users not use the lake."

Mr Knuth said he fully supported Mr Bailey's decision for fishing to continue and state government boat ramps to stay open but said Mr Bailey had turned his back on those that have limited access to the coast.

"Residents on the Tablelands do not have easy access to beaches that residents living along the coast have but we do have lakes and dams," he said.

"For Sunwater to close Tinaroo Dam to locals, so they are prohibited from exercising and fishing, is in direct contradiction to the minister's comments and is unfair to locals, especially those living around the lake.

"I have written to the Minister questioning why are we discriminated against from these activities when he is encouraging us to do so."

Dam Outrigger Canoe Club Inc. (DOCCI) committee member Terry Barnes said he was shattered by the complete closure of access to Lake Tinaroo.

"As a recreational user of the lake I have been monitoring the regulations issued by the Government with respect to social distancing and groups meeting," Mr Barnes said.

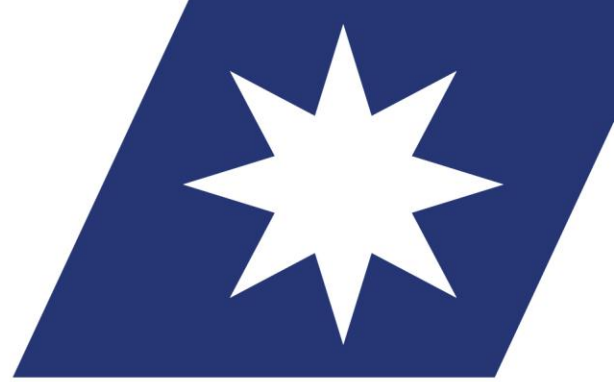
"Our sporting peak bodies of Rowing Australia, Rowing Queensland, Australian Outrigger Canoe Racing Assoc. and the FNQ Zone of AOCRA have advised us to cease all club organised activities and as such we have cancelled all advanced planned regattas for the foreseeable future.

"For those who still wanted to exercise we decided to curtail our water activities by limiting the frequency and staggering the times to minimise overlap and social interaction.

SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

“However, Sunwater have now issued a directive that all access to the dam is closed and all land and water-based activities are prohibited.

“I believe this directive has been made with a total disregard for the recreational users of the waterway.

“It is at loggerheads with advice from health officials to maintain mental and physical health through exercise.”

Caption: It was a beautiful day out at Tinaburra but unfortunately the lake is closed for recreational use.

-ENDS-