



15 Sep 2016

North West Star, Mount Isa QLD

Author: Derek Barry • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Classification : Regional • Audience : 1,637 • Page: 5 • Printed Size: 194.00cm²
Market: QLD • Country: Australia • Words: 327 • Item ID: 657225722

 isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARY

INFORMATION ANALYSIS ADVICE

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) licensed copy
or Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth) s. 48A copy

Page 1 of 1

Macdonald attacks Katter

BY DEREK BARRY

NP SENATOR Ian Macdonald has called out Bob Katter following comments in the North West Star suggesting Free Trade Agreements had 'proved disastrous' for the country.

Senator Macdonald said the Federal Member for Kennedy has proven how out of touch he was

"In a recent article in the North West Star, the Member for Kennedy, states that free trade deals have proved disastrous for Australia, and that as a nation, we've come off second best as a result of them," Senator Macdonald said.

"This is despite the fact that the federal electorate of Kennedy is one of the country's leading exporters of

beef, sugar and horticulture, just a few of the commodities that are driving the success

of some of our most prosperous free trade agreements."

Senator Macdonald said the fact that the member for Kennedy is even talking about a Free Trade Agreement with the UK shows how completely out of touch he is with what is going on around him.

"The Federal Government has clearly indicated that a Free Trade Agreement with the UK is not likely to be concluded for some time. The immediate priority is securing a Free Trade Agreement with the EU."

Mr Katter had earlier said free trade agreements ceded sovereignty and had left Australia as the weakest trading nation on earth.

"Free trade deals have proved disastrous for Australia. Every single report that's come out indicates Australia comes off second best," Mr Katter said.

"Our leaders are so mind numbingly stupid they actually think that a free trade deal wins them votes in Australia. When Prime Minister Abbott signed a free trade deal with China, he was gone within five or six weeks."

Mr Katter said Australia needed to cease being an economic colony.

"I think the UK offers splendid opportunities for our beef our sugar and to a lesser extent our dairy products," he said.

Senator Macdonald said Australia already has a very strong trading partnership with the UK.