



COOK CANDIDATES



MAREEBA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Crime is an ongoing issue, what will you do to combat this problem?

CYNTHIA LUI MP *Australian Labor Party*

The Palaszczuk government has a five point plan: Tougher action on bail, a police blitz on bail, appealing court decisions where appropriate, A 24/7 Police Strike Team involving youth justice workers for high risk offenders, Culture-based rehabilitation for indigenous offenders through new On Country initiatives trialled in FNQ and Empowering local communities with \$2 million for local community-based solutions.

NIPPER BROWN *Liberal National Party*

What is being done now is not working so as a start we need to listen to the people on the ground not the bureaucrats. Crime is at different levels in different locations for instance. Cooktown and Mossman compared to Mareeba. I would ask why they are, what are they doing differently.

TANIKA PARKER *Katter's Australian Party*

KAP's policy is 'Relocation Sentencing'. Youth offenders would be taken out of their environment to Lake Julius (in remote North West Queensland) for a period of 6-12 months to work and be taught life skills - to reintegrate back into society. It is based on the very successful program run by Geoff Guest at Petford for many decades.

DESMOND TALEY *North Queensland First*

NQ First announced our 'War on Crime' on August 21 when we released a comprehensive 10-point plan. It includes tougher penalties for offenders, the return of high-speed police pursuits, an extra 500 police officers from Rockhampton up to Cape York and the establishment of the Cape York Police Tracker Centre at Coen.

YODIE BATZKE *Independent*

Police cannot solve or prevent crime on their own. All levels of Government with community involvement in addressing crime through local solutions is important, with prevention as a priority. In other States, security services have been established within a Local Government Association have proven to be effective in preventing crime, however rate payers have paid for these services. To ensure rate payers are not burdened with such expenses, I will be lobbying for additional funds to be allocated to our 77 Local Government Associations for the establishment of a security service patrol within each Council.

BRETTLYN NEAL *One Nation*

As a youth programs manager specialising in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, more youth engagement programs and increased financial support for community grounds is essential to decreasing youth crime. Whilst the QPS do their utmost best to tackle crime, their jobs are made a lot harder while magistrates continue to hand down inadequate sentences. Catch and release is a term best left for fishing.

What will you do to fight for improved health services for our town?

CYNTHIA LUI MP *Australian Labor Party*

My commitment to health services in Mareeba is clear with our government delivering a \$10 million renovation of the Mareeba Hospital and a CT Machine. We recently opened a new ambulance station and new staff accommodation for health workers. I will continue to support the growth of healthcare capacity in Mareeba to reduce reliance on the Cairns Hospital.

NIPPER BROWN *Liberal National Party*

Mareeba Health services some 6 years ago was dwindling and a group called Save Mareeba Hospital became involved. We had town meetings and as a result of continuous lobbying to the Government and CHHS. We have got more services. I have always been part of that group and our fight is far from completed. As the member I will continually be at the door of the minister lobbying for better health in our electorate.

TANIKA PARKER *Katter's Australian Party*

Why has the Atherton hospital received \$70M and Dimbulah hospital \$5.5M, while Mareeba hospital gets crumbs? Because Dimbulah and Atherton are in the Hill electorate and the KAP's Shane Knuth is their Member of Parliament. Bob Katter, KAP Member for Kennedy, secured \$2M for the Mareeba Hospital (it is virtually unheard of to get Federal Funding for a State hospital). Vote for KAP in Cook and I will fight on this track record, to get improved health services and funding to the Mareeba hospital.

DESMOND TALEY *North Queensland First*

If NQ First secures the balance of power, we'll provide additional services at the Mareeba Hospital, including renal dialysis. We'll also increase funding to the patient travel subsidy scheme (PTSS) by 20% and make changes to the system, so the not-for-profit sector can utilise their resources in transporting people to medical appointments.

YODIE BATZKE *Independent*

At present Mareeba Hospital provides Level 3 in Clinical Services. Other Hospitals in this district classified as a Level 3 also includes Mossman, Tully and Innisfail, yet Mareeba Hospital provides health care to a population of approximately 20K, still remains a Level 3 in Clinical Services. Mareeba plays a vital role in providing access to services for regional and remote communities in Cape York and thus should be elevated to a Level 4 in Clinical Services inclusive of a fully functional ICU Unit. As an Independent I will lobby for further development of an ICU that provides 5 intensive care and high dependency beds to adult and paediatric patients who are seriously ill or with life threatening injuries.

BRETTLYN NEAL *One Nation*

The current upgrades of the Mareeba hospital are solely due to 'save the Mareeba hospital' services and the communities that support them. I too will continue to support and fight alongside them. Making the wider Mareeba area more attractive to health professionals will help to secure even better health services.

What will you do to eradicate crocodiles from our environment?

CYNTHIA LUI MP *Australian Labor Party*

I support the implementation of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. It identifies Mareeba as an atypical habitat zone. That is, there should be no crocodiles there. Crocodiles should be removed from the area around Mareeba.

NIPPER BROWN *Liberal National Party*

Extend the removal zone to include the Barron River. LNP will always put people before crocs and all crocodiles in removal Zones, regardless of size or behaviour will be removed. Problem crocs in other zones will be removed within 3 days.

TANIKA PARKER *Katter's Australian Party*

The KAP has already been proactive on this issue and introduced into Parliament the Safer Waterways Bill in 2017. It places greater value on human life than on the lives of crocodiles. It aims to eliminate from our waterways all crocodiles that pose a threat to human life while protecting crocodiles (in areas of natural habitat) from becoming endangered as a species. Mareeba is not a natural habitat for crocodiles and they need to be removed. The ALP and LNP voted against this legislation.

DESMOND TALEY *North Queensland First*

If NQ First secures the balance of power, we'll implement a robust crocodile culling program. It will be a North and Far North Queensland solution to a North and Far North Queensland problem, not a South-East Queensland solution. After all, public safety is paramount and hence, NQ First's no-nonsense 'shoot to kill' policy.

YODIE BATZKE *Independent*

Whilst current legislation aims to conserve biodiversity by protecting wildlife and its habitat, it has indirectly affected the social and economic sustainability of remote communities throughout Cook. Locals fear swimming in regular swimming locations and local aquaculture businesses, diving and tourism activities are severely affected due to increase in crocodile numbers. Solutions must be looked at in providing alternate methods of economic development for coastal communities. Current Wildlife Trade Management Plan – Queensland Crocodile Farming and Crocodile Egg Harvesting 1 November 2018 - 31 October 2023, identified an initial pilot harvest of crocodile eggs is proposed to be conducted at Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire, on the west coast of Cape York, authorised by licence and running for a total of ten years. I will be lobbying for further pilots to be extended to other Indigenous Local Government Associations in partnership with Traditional Owner Ranger programs, in Cape York Peninsula to assist in reducing the proliferation of crocodile numbers.

BRETTLYN NEAL *One Nation*

Unlike coastal areas of Cook, the upper reaches of the Mitchell and Barron Rivers, historically, have estuarine crocodiles. Eradication programs, not management programs, need to be implemented as soon as possible before an innocent person is taken and local businesses and farmers suffer due to this problem.

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