

ROBBIE KATTER

Member for Traeger



MEDIA RELEASE

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“UN-AUSTRALIAN” EXPORTERS MUST GO: KAP

Non-Australians found to be involved in exporting crucial supplies to other countries must be immediately deported, KAP Leader and Traeger MP Robbie Katter has said.

Mr Katter said it was sickening that individuals and companies were targeting items vitally needed by Australian doctors, nurses and patients in the fight against COVID-19, and that those involved were pariahs who had no place in Australia.

His calls today follow the publishing of a *Daily Telegraph* story outlining that exporting vital items like face masks and hand sanitiser could now be punished with up to five years' jail.¹

Mr Katter said he welcomed moves by Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton to ban the export of gloves, gowns, goggles, visors, alcohol wipes, masks and hand sanitiser but said any non-Australian citizens or permanent residents involved should be deported.

The ban should also be extended to vital food items and other supplies, such as baby formula and toilet paper, he said.

“These are terrible times for all countries, but this is unacceptable on any level,” Mr Katter said.

“We all have a desperate need for these items and anyone who seeks to risk the health and well-being of Australians at a time like this is not welcome – it’s just un-Australian.”

According to the *Daily Telegraph* article, Mr Dutton’s ban follows reports that a Chinese-backed company had recently sent 10,000 masks, 30,000 protective gowns and 68,000 disposable gloves from Sydney to Shanghai.

It is understood the company now claims it is amassing supplies that it will donate to Australian doctors and nurses.

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¹ Daily Telegraph, “Exclusive: Jail for Chinese profiteers sending COVID-19 supplies home”, 1 April, 2020, www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/exclusive-jail-for-chinese-profiteers-sending-covid19-supplies-home/news-story/1452638fd933fe31c67385c2f2a1dccb