

We The People  
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We the People 372 Selling the Farm



**Good Day to You.** There is a wise old adage which says.. "*it's foolish to burn the furniture to stay warm*" and that's patently true. Once all your furniture has turned to ash then it's gone forever and there is nothing to use in the home. Unless you are a banker, economist or investor then you will probably not like too much foreign ownership in Australia. For a very long time many ordinary grass roots Australians have resisted foreign ownership as simply selling the farm or burning the furniture to stay warm. As a nation we prize what we have and in principle we don't want people and business from elsewhere in the world to own a lot of Australia because many believe they will not look after the asset or our interests as Australians and I reckon that's right. As Aussies, it appears we inherently dislike the idea of overseas ownership and as a free people we don't like to be lectured about what is good for us. In a democracy the will of the people should prevail regardless of the self appointed experts or politicians. Now to the point and Australia's most unusual and outspoken politician, Bob Katter MP the member for Kennedy in Queensland. His electorate is 567,377 square kilometers in area. That's twice the size of New Zealand and bigger than France.

Bob Katter is in touch with many diverse industries and people and he's loud and abrasive. He too knows that many Australians don't want any more of Australia sold off because it's bad for business and even worse for the Australian psyche. It's unpleasant in the coastal areas too and creates unease in fertile parts of the coast line including the Gold Coast where we watch as foreign investors buy property and drive up prices robbing younger Australians of the opportunity to own their own home. Foreign developers often care not for our culture or our fundamental right to foster the Australia of the future. So being brash but in touch, Bob Katter has introduced legislation into parliament..... the **Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Amendment Bill** for the second time to limit foreign ownership. Tensions have mounted as Mr Katter listed the major foreign run companies, stating that free trade means jobs exported, cheap labour imported. Katter said, "The biggest farm in Australia 'Van Diemen's dairys' is owned by China, the 2nd biggest 'Cubbie' owned by China, the biggest grain farms 'Nicoletti' owned by China, biggest farming aggregation 'Kidmans' controlled by China, the biggest of all, 'Ord stage 2 & 3' owned by China, Australia's most strategic port, Darwin owned by China. Car manufacturing, glass, textiles, petrol, whitegoods - all gone overseas," Mr Katter said. "What has free trade done for us.....it gave away the entire coal seam gas reserves of this nation, \$23 billion a year was given away. We gave it away for six cents a gigajoule and we bought it back for \$16 a gigajoule. In fact, it is cheaper to buy Australian gas in Tokyo and bring it back than to actually buy it in Australia. Further we freed up the wool industry and what a magical achievement as its now costing the nation \$16 billion a year. So while Brazil produces ethanol and provides a \$4 billion cross subsidy to its sugar industry, we're 'free trading', so we import \$23 billion worth of petrol every year instead of producing even a litre of petrol of our own. Just in coal seam gas, wool, ethanol and motor vehicles, we have lost up to \$70 billion in just five items".... **end quote.**

So where will it all end and take note of President Trump as he puts America first and claws back so much in trade and ownership and he is right. Trump is belittled and so is Katter by the self appointed superiority of the Coalition. They heckle him in parliament such is their arrogance. Trouble is Katter and Trump are right and Katter is reading the view of the average Australian correctly. What is happening to our country, our culture, our future and I think we are even outsourcing our morals and principles to our nation's detriment. **Advance Australia where?**

**Until next time this Kent Bayley**