

VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY





**KATTER'S
AUSTRALIAN PARTY**

Volunteers and not-for-profit community groups are the backbone of our regional and remote communities throughout North Queensland.

Volunteers and Not-for-Profit Community Groups

KAP is calling on the Queensland State Government to establish a dedicated infrastructure and equipment fund to reduce the financial and operational pressures on volunteers.

Volunteers are the backbone of North Queensland. We're all about rolling up our sleeves and pitching in, but the latest State of Volunteering Report shows that volunteer rates have dropped by 11.5% over the last three years.

The economic value of volunteering in Queensland is immense. For every dollar invested in volunteering, there is a return of \$4.70. However, replacing the labour provided by volunteers would cost \$31.3 billion per year.

A dedicated infrastructure and equipment fund would be similar to the successful Works for Queensland initiative and would be managed through local councils in order to support community clubs and organisations. This would allow volunteers to focus on their primary activities rather than on constant fundraising. To ensure best use of taxpayer money, we propose that where possible, clubs and associations should collaborate and share resources, reducing duplication and ensuring that the benefits of the fund are widely felt. Areas that are more isolated or have fewer opportunities to raise funds independently should be given special consideration.

Our advocacy for this new funding allocation is driven by the concerns of our constituents. We have received numerous appeals from organisations across North Queensland, including in Townsville, that are in desperate need of financial support. Local councils are already under strain and cannot afford to bear this responsibility alone. This proposed fund would provide much-needed relief, enabling clubs to grow and thrive without placing additional strain on volunteers or local government budgets.

The benefit would potentially result in increasing volunteer participation rates and reducing the strain on other service providers. More importantly, it would strengthen the social fabric of our communities, ensuring that the essential services and activities provided by not-for-profit organisations continue to enhance the quality of life for us all in North Queensland.