




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Housing

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise today to speak on a matter that should never have happened, a matter that is one of the biggest fears of any home owner—your dream home collapsing around you. This is the reality for a group of home owners on the northern Gold Coast. I table some images of the damage.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting building works [733](#).

In the images you can see the extensive damage to these houses. They are near-new houses. How can this happen in our modern society? How can something go so terribly wrong? That is the question these residents want answers to. They feel they have been left in limbo. Groundwater seeping out of a slope on a hill should raise red flags. The geotechnical report labelled the area in question hummocky ground, which is another cause for concern. I table the geotechnical report, which states—

It should be noted that during the original walkover survey of stage 13a instability was evident at several locations in the form of hummocky ground surface as well as active slips in localised areas associated with ground water seepage.

...

Lot 585, 586 and 622 have been assessed as having a slope instability Hazard Risk Rating of Very High' they are located within a slip area with ground water seepage evident.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 December 2014, from Mortons Urban Solutions, Mr John Harrison, to Planning Assessment, Gold Coast City Council, regarding response to information request for the OPW (civil works) application over Lot 523 SP266201 (CTS) for 'Riverstone Crossing' (Stage 13A), Upper Coomera [734](#).

The report goes on to make recommendations that residents feel were never sufficiently carried out. We should not be allowing residential estates to be built on hummocky ground, land with active slips and areas of groundwater seepage. We should not be placing family homes on land that has a high chance of slipping; therefore, these affected residents are asking for the laws to be changed to reduce the likelihood of this ever happening again.

Let's talk about these individuals. These are good, hardworking families, and their lives and rights should mean something. George is 58, and he and his wife moved into the house six months ago. His wife has lost so much confidence in the house that she now spends most of her time with family in Adelaide as she is so distressed. Paula, who is a carer for her husband, suffered a serious head injury. She is suffering immense stress and having panic attacks. She needs specialised help to care for her husband. Tony and his wife are semi-retired. They moved into the area in 2018. Their future is uncertain. They ask, 'What do we do now? Where do we live?'

These are only a few of the residents who have been affected by this extensive landslide. This parliament has a moral obligation to do everything in our power to reduce the likelihood of this ever happening again. They also ask Stockland to please do the right thing.