




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Clayfield Electorate, Resilient Homes Fund

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.31 pm): I just heard the member for Pumicestone say ‘doing what matters’. How about doing what matters to the people of Clayfield who are still waiting, a year after the event, for flood buyback offers and resilient homes funding to be made available to them? This government has \$741 million to spend on the Resilient Homes Fund and 50 per cent of that, of course, was courtesy of the then federal coalition government last year. The promise was that that money would give struggling home owners affected by the disastrous 2022 February floods a new start with a chance to repair, a chance to enhance flood resilience and, in some cases, a chance to sell their home and move somewhere else under a flood buyback scheme.

While purchases of \$2.5 million are reportedly going ahead at lightning speed, in my electorate owners whose homes were flooded up to the ceiling are still waiting for a response. Right now in my electorate of Clayfield that is happening in Windsor along Enoggera Creek and in Kalinga along Kedron Brook, more than one year after the flooding of both Enoggera Creek and Kedron Brook. Over many months I have been assisting residents in Victoria Street, Windsor, and Millman Street, Wooloowin, who are frustrated, confused and distressed by the inability of this Labor government to simply do what it promised to do, which is to help those most severely affected by last year’s damaging floods, that is, those who have lost their homes.

Residents have been looking for clear, concise and accurate information for months—for months—about their eligibility under one of the three funding scheme options. However, to date, and despite many calls and emails, they are no closer to getting an answer. A timeline provided by one of my constituents shows that they first contacted the fund administrator in April 2022. It is now March 2023 and they are no further down the track. It appears that the funds agents who are supposedly helping home owners navigate the convoluted mess of bureaucracy that is the Resilient Homes Fund are themselves up the creek without a paddle.

I take the case of Marco from Windsor. He reports that the fund gives conflicting deadlines, has extensive delays in assessment and apparently has never heard of that revolutionary concept known as communication back to the customer. One might think that in a process as crucial as this, clear and concise information would be of the utmost importance. The fund’s public website seems to have been taken out of a-choose-your-own-adventure novel. The Resilient Homes Fund offers not one but two fact sheets with identical first steps, only to diverge about halfway through. Home owners like Roger and Judith from Kalinga are left wondering whether they will ever receive their report. Flood-affected locals like Roger, Judith, Marco and his neighbour Jo have been left waiting in rapidly deteriorating neighbourhood properties. I call on this government and the Deputy Premier to get this matter sorted.