




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Weather Events, Recovery Assistance

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2:37 pm): On Monday, 24 November savage weather ripped through the south-east corner, severely impacting Moreton Bay communities. I want to commend the council, volunteers, SES, rural firefighters, community organisations on the front line and everyone involved in the response and recovery to date.

But there is one thing that you hear right across our city, a common chorus: this LNP government let us down. Action has been lacking, uncoordinated, too slow, too confusing. What qualifies a suburb to be eligible through support payments for disaster recovery? Postcode politics have been on full display. Myself and the members for Murrumba, Morayfield, Bancroft, Kurwongbah and Ferny Grove have all written to the disaster recovery minister seeking a just application of financial support. We pleaded with the small business minister for help. Neither have responded or acknowledged the concern. The fact that there has been not one word from them in this chamber this week says it all.

The member for Pumicestone used this place to attack us—the people supporting her community—rather than to advocate for small business grants in her community. Why hasn't the small business minister been to our city? Why has he not said a word? Why has the energy minister left our community in the dark? Why did it take the disaster recovery minister until the end of the week to board a return plane from Townsville? Where was the leadership in this event? The Premier saw the devastation with his own eyes and it is his job to activate a central response, yet he chose not to.

For the record, the member for Morayfield and I were both invited to Beachmere by business operators. We were there to meet with dozens of them. Many of them were on the brink emotionally and financially. They were exhausted. All they wanted was answers and support. I agree with the member for Pumicestone: they felt exploited and unsupported by this LNP government. That was the message that came through loud and clear before we even said our hellos. To hear that that still exists is very regretful—it is representative of a lack of action from this government, the very people who can fix it.

All small businesses should be able to call for help and support, and it is only ever proper that MPs provide that without fear or favour. It is our job as MPs to support them in those calls. The member for Pumicestone needs to explain to her community why these people are still without the support they are begging for. It is of deep regret to us all on this side of the House that so many vulnerable, hardworking Queenslanders are left wanting by this government in their time of need. The government are more focused on threats, deflecting and defending their ineptitude than they are on doing their job. The LNP need to get on with it and provide the support to our community. These people in need who are hardworking Queenslanders expect that support from their government. The discrimination needs to stop.