

Question on Notice

No. 1223

Asked on 4 December 2020

MR S KNUTH ASKED TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR INVESTMENT (HON C DICK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the homebuilder grant, concerns about significant delays in processing applications and reports of banks withholding payment for the balance of work to be completed by builders until the grant is processed, causing significant stress to home owners—

Will the Treasurer outline why there are processing delays and what steps have been taken to quicken the approval process?

ANSWER:

The premise of the honourable Member's question is incorrect. The Federal Government has provided no guidelines about the processing times for HomeBuilder grants and questions about timing should be put to the Federal Government.

The HomeBuilder program was announced by the Federal Government on 4 June 2020, without prior consultation of State and Territory Governments and without administration funding provided to State and Territory Governments.

At the time of announcement, the only timeline provided by the Federal Government was that HomeBuilder would be available for building contracts signed between 4 June 2020 and 31 December 2020, where construction or renovation commenced within three months of the contract date. The Federal Government has since announced the extension of the deadline for all HomeBuilder Grant applications to be submitted to 31 March 2021.

In response to the large volume of applications for the HomeBuilder Grant, Queensland's Office of State Revenue has almost doubled its resources, at significant cost to the Queensland Government, to process applications and staff have been working regular overtime.

The Queensland Government recognises that the HomeBuilder Grant provides much-needed assistance to individuals and families in the process of renovating or building a new home and is committed to ensuring that this valuable grant is paid to eligible applicants as quickly as possible.

The Queensland Government has also put in place an option for "pre-approval" where required by finance providers, details of which can be accessed at: <https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/programs-and-policies/queensland-first-home-owner-grant/homebuilder-pre-approval-form/>