

# Bill Shorten MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR  
MARIBYRNONG



Ms Ellen Sandell MP  
State Member for Melbourne  
146-148 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

10 July 2024

Dear Ms Sandell,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 June 2024, updating me on your progress with the Kensington Banks flood zoning.

I have written to the Insurance Council of Australia to get a date for a meeting. Once I have some more information on a meeting, I would be happy to share those details with you.

I am committed to finding out the exact impact the rezoning will have on residents' insurance premiums and to make sure properties are considered on an individual basis, not as a postcode. I have been advised that Melbourne Water has provided the Insurance Council of Australia with the granular data required to do this.

Flood mitigation is my highest priority to achieve the best possible outcome for the residents of Kensington Banks. I have seen great success with flood mitigation during previous flood crises around Australia including at Roma in Queensland and Launceston.

I have expressed my expectation to Melbourne Water that they find appropriate mitigation measures for the residents. I am told that the work to model mitigation measures is currently out too tender, and I suggest that we both take a keen interest in this work.

At this stage, I am focused on flood mitigation strategies that keeps residents in their homes with no to minimal impact. Until we have a clear picture of the impact of the proposed flood mitigation measures, I think it may be too early to be advocating for a buyback program.

I will be writing to the Federal Select Committee on the Impact of Climate Risk to request that they make public hearings available to the Kensington Banks community. So that they can directly hear from local residents on their concerns around insurance premiums.

Once again, thank you for writing to me in relation to the flood rezoning in Kensington Banks and providing me an update.

This is a matter of top concern to me, and I will stay in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Shorten MP  
**Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme**  
**Minister for Government Services**  
**Federal Member for Maribyrnong**

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