

Clifton Historical Museum: This big brick beauty is set to tumble

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ONE of the oldest buildings in Clifton is set to tumble.

The Clifton Historical Museum, located in the old butter factory, will be demolished to make way for a new museum.

Its removal will be paid for by a \$250,000 Drought Communities Programme grant.

Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said the project would be good for the town.

"These funds will not only be used to demolish the current site but also assist with **asbestos decontamination**, pest control, securing the site as well as removal and storage of the museum's prized pioneering history collection," he said.

"While it may seem counter-productive to demolish the current site, the new building will be more suitable for housing the collection, something that needs to be preserved for generations to come."

The Clifton Historical Museum is a community driven initiative that pays tribute to the district's pioneering past.

Its collection includes a 1930s dining room, a pioneer bedroom, an early hospital ward, kitchen and children's room and original records of local businesses and schools.

It is also a deeply personal collection with recordings of memoirs from long-time residents, photographic collection and database for use by historians and the public.

There is old movie memorabilia along with communication devices and music instruments. It is run by volunteers from the local historical society and the exhibits have been donated by locals.

The museum closed to the public in 2016 after the Toowoomba Regional Council deemed it unsafe.

All of its contents, except for documents and photographs, have been locked away.

Mr Littleproud hopes the grant money will create a mini jobs boom in the small town.

"One of the great things about Drought Communities Program is that funds are driven down into local groups who have a say in which local is contracted to do the work," he said.

"When community groups make these informed decisions, they are justifying projects that are worthwhile for the organisation to thrive."