



Grenfell Tower inquiry hears fire commander failed to carry out required checks

[Fire fears raised over green batts insulation in Cairns Performing Arts Centre](#)

Chris Calcino, The Cairns Post

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INSULATION suspected of contributing to a blaze that gutted a Townsville car dealership two years ago has been found in the Cairns Performing Arts Centre.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services inspectors have ordered the GreenStuf used in the ceiling cavity of the \$71.1 million CPAC to be including in rigorous fire safety testing on Monday.

Its exterior aluminium composite cladding panels have also been referred for tests in Canberra.

Emergency Services Minister Craig Crawford said the GreenStuf batts were also present in a fire that caused millions of dollars in damage when it tore through the Mike Carney Toyota and Lexus showrooms in Garbutt in 2016.

He criticised the council for acting like cladding fears were a new development when the Grenfell Towers disaster occurred more than a year ago.



Figure 1 QFES has raised grave concerns about the use of potentially flammable insulation and cladding in the Cairns Performing Arts Centre. PICTURE: JUSTIN BRIERTY

“At the time those materials were purchased by somebody in the procurement stage, who asked the question about whether there was going to be a problem later on?” he said.

“Clearly nobody did.”

Mr Crawford said QFES officers only came across the Alcadex A1 and Alpolic cladding by chance.

“They weren’t even looking for cladding,” he said.

“They were actually doing other sign-offs on different things and an inspector stumbled across it.

“If it wasn’t for them doing that, we wouldn’t be having this conversation.”

Another 734 buildings in the Cairns Regional Council area are also in question, including Cairns Hospital’s new wing.

Mayor Bob Manning said GreenStuf was not a banned material and CPAC was a vastly different building to the Townsville car dealership.

He said CPAC was “incredible advanced” with 300mm-thick cement walls and state-of-the-art sprinkler, smoke detection, all of which would be taken into account during testing.