

[Real Estate](#)[Commercial](#)[Combustible cladding crisis](#)

# Victoria removing combustible cladding from 13 state owned schools

**Michael Bleby** *Senior Reporter*



Apr 23, 2019 — 8.00pm

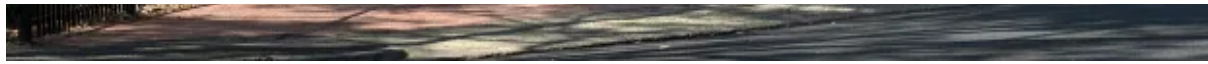


Two of Victoria's top-performing secondary schools feature among a handful of public institutions with combustible cladding that the state government is now taking steps to remove and replace.

Melbourne Girls' College in Richmond and University High in Parkville are included in tenders under way to replace combustible cladding on school buildings two storeys or more in height, in a series of five different contracts run by the state education department.

"In response to the Victorian Cladding Taskforce's recommendations, school buildings two storeys or more and of a certain age were audited, and we're removing combustible cladding identified at 13 schools across the state," a department spokesman said.





Melbourne Girls' College is one of 13 Victorian state schools with combustible cladding that has to be removed. **Joe Armao**

“Our investigations to date have determined that there are no known immediate risks to students and teachers at these schools.”

No other schools have been identified as needing cladding replacement and the number needing cladding replaced is smaller than the [497 primary, secondary and special state schools](#) that have already had high-risk asbestos removed.

But the news shows Australia's combustible cladding crisis is not limited to residential and commercial buildings, and that burden of replacing the potentially dangerous material is widespread. The three packages on tender for buildings across the eight schools are worth a total \$11 million and work is scheduled to take place across a range of dates this year and next.

Melbourne Girls' College ranked ninth and and University High 12th on [an Age comparison last year of median VCE results](#). Both are included in two of three Combustible Cladding Works packages tendered by the Victorian School Building Authority.

Publicly available tender documents show other schools identified for remediation include Port Phillip Specialist School, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Officer Secondary College, Maribyrnong Secondary College, Hazel Glen College and Hartwell Primary.

Victoria's education department declined to identify the five other schools slated for cladding replacement – two more packages still have to go to market – but said they did not include the recently completed Richmond High and South Melbourne Primary vertical schools.

Victorian schools appear to be more affected by combustible cladding than those in other eastern states. The NSW government said none of its schools had cladding that required replacing.

"The NSW Department of Education conducted a review of all NSW public schools last year and found that no schools carried non-compliant cladding and that all school buildings were compliant with the requirements set by the Building Code of Australia," an education department spokesman said.

Queensland said its Non-Conforming Building Products Audit taskforce had found just one state school with cladding needing replacement.

"At Ascot State School a D-block building was identified with a minor amount of Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP) cladding on its upper eastern elevation," the department of housing and public works said.

"Work was carried out over the Easter school holiday break to remove the combustible cladding."

At its [last update](#) in October, the Victorian Cladding Taskforce said 384 of 4700 government-owned or occupied buildings reviewed were found to have potentially combustible cladding, with 21 deemed to be high risk. This is separate from the 681 privately owned buildings across the state found to have combustible cladding.

The NSW Cladding taskforce has identified 34 government buildings as being affected by combustible cladding.

"Action is currently under way, and in some cases has been completed, to manage any risk arising from the presence of cladding on the buildings," a taskforce spokeswoman said.

Public owners of buildings with Alucobond cladding are able to join Australia's first-ever class action against the suppliers of the combustible product, but they have to actively opt in to the class – in contrast to private building owners who are automatically included.

The spokesman said Victoria's education department had not joined the class and had "no intention at this stage" to join it.

The NSW cladding taskforce could not comment about the class action on behalf of the wider government, the spokeswoman said.



Save



Share

License article

---

**TOPICS**[Combustible cladding crisis](#)[High school](#)[Primary school](#)[Construction](#)

---

**Michael Bleby** writes on real estate specialising in construction, infrastructure, architecture based in our Melbourne newsroom. *Connect with Michael on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Email Michael at [mbleby@afrc.com.au](mailto:mbleby@afrc.com.au)*



---

---

## **MOST VIEWED IN REAL ESTATE**

**1 How to pick the bottom of the property market**

---

**2 Rate cut could aid house price recovery**

---

**3 Housing bust could be over quickly**

---

**4 Airbnb gets MadeComfy with local start-up**

---

**5 Pitches fly for \$1b Home Consortium listing; up to \$200m IPO**

