

# The Star sues over ‘combustible’ panels, similar to Grenfell Tower

The Gold Coast’s Star casino is suing four companies over claims “combustible” panels, similar to those that helped fire spread in London’s Grenfell Tower disaster, were used on one of its high-end restaurants.

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Sky News host Peta Credlin says here in Australia we have our own "cladding crisis" with more than "three thousand" buildings still at risk from a potential inferno similar to London's Grenfell Tower blaze of 2017. "Millions of dollars were promised, to fix it, but it still hasn't happened, according to an expert report," Ms Credlin...

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The Star casino on the Gold Coast has sued four companies who helped build one of its glamorous restaurants claiming they used “combustible” plastic and aluminium panels on external walls, similar to the ones which were blamed for helping fire spread in London’s Grenfell Tower disaster.

The Star Entertainment Qld Limited (The Star) has sued architectural firm DBI Design, the builder Buildcorp Group, the certifier McCarthy Consulting Group and fire services company WSP Buildings, claiming their negligence in installing the panels in The Garden bar, means the casino and hotel will have to be partly shut down so the panels can be removed at enormous cost.

In its claim filed in the Supreme Court last month, The Star alleges the aluminium composite panels “span multiple areas of the Garden Bar” and “serve as the exterior surface of the Garden Bar structure”.



Garden Kitchen and Bar. Picture: The Star

The Garden Bar includes a large deck and lawn as well as indoor dining areas and a large bar.

The claim states that the panels are “combustible” and don’t comply with building standards because they “are expected to burn and propagate at an aggressive rate”.

It states that the panels, which were installed by Buildcorp between September 2015 and December 2015, are comprised of a core of up to 29 per cent polyethylene.

The Grenfell Tower panels were also made from polyethylene, a type of plastic, sandwiched between aluminium.

“Cladding which is not compliant with the BCA (Building Code of Australia) and which burns and propagates at an aggressive rate is not fit for the purpose of serving as the exterior surface of a building, such as the Garden bar structure, in which people will congregate,” the claim states.



THE STAR Garden Kitchen & Bar

The Star claims it is obliged to remedy the non-compliant cladding by removing it and replacing them with panels which comply with the BCA.

It alleges that it will need to shut down parts of the casino and the hotel to do this work, which will cause it to lose sales.

The Star alleges DBI designed the “defective” cladding, and that Buildcorp installed them, and McCarthy Consulting Group certified them as compliant and that WSP approved their use and installation.

The Star has not quantified the damages it is seeking, however the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to decide financial disputes worth \$750,000 and more.

No defence has yet been filed and no date has been set for hearing.