

## LIFESTYLE

# Cladding, Gold Coast: The unknown cost of cladding repair

**Urgent changes to cladding regulation have helped avoid an industry shutdown — but unit owners could still be up for the cost of reparation works, warns the construction industry peak body.**

Kirstin Payne, Gold Coast Bulletin

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URGENT changes to cladding regulation have helped avoid an industry shutdown, but unit owners could still be up for the cost of reparation works, warns the construction industry peak body.

Master Builders Deputy Chief Executive Paul Bidwell said the State Government's moves to ban the use of combustible cladding in new buildings and make it easier for the sector to identify concerns.

However changes to insurance regulation may leave some homeowners without options when it comes to funding rectification works.

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Paul Bidwell, Master Builders Qld, Queensland budget reaction, Parliamentary Annex, Brisbane. Photographer: Liam Kidston.

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The State Government changes introduced last week follow warnings that building surveyors had been unable to get full professional indemnity (PI) insurance, over flammable cladding concerns — which [ultimately lead to a shortage of certifiers](#), slowing the industry.

Due to the state government's changes the full PI cover is now no longer a requirement for all certifiers to be registered under state law.

### [UNIT OWNERS COULD BE HIT WITH MASSIVE BILLS OVER NEW CLADDING LAWS](#)

Mr Bidwell said while the regulatory change was helpful for the majority of the sector, the omission of cladding insurance coverage for certifiers may leave some homeowners in the lurch.

“It is what we have been pushing for, for months now, it was sort of at the 11th hour,” Mr Bidwell told the Bulletin last week.

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“The gap in insurance is OK for 95 per cent of certifiers out there who just do houses and stopped a lot of angst in the industry.

“But for those who are involved in commercial buildings, are uninsured for that part of their work, which means the owners of existing buildings have less of an avenue for financial recourse.

“It creates a problem which will need to be addressed.”

“The question of what we are going to do when flammable cladding is identified and how it is that going to play out will still need to be answered.”

Mr Bidwell said despite the uncertainty ahead for a small portion of the market the changes needed to take place.

“If the minister hadn’t of done anything the industry would have ground to a halt, for that we are grateful,” he said.



The Grenfell tower where a light combustible cladding killed dozens of people./ AFP PHOTO / Tolga AKMEN

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