

ATC sets aside \$12m for replacement of cladding on Randwick grandstand

The Australian Turf Club has made a \$12 million provision to replace flammable building cladding on the Queen Elizabeth Grandstand in its 2019 annual report to conform with new government regulations.

The provision meant a \$1.4 million operating surplus become a more than \$9 million loss for the club in 2019, but is only an estimate of the cost of replacing the cladding.



Winx sails to victory in the front of the Queen Elizabeth grandstand AAP

The grandstand, which was opened in April 2013, was built with a \$150 million grant from the government, following the merger of the Australian Jockey Club and Sydney Turf Club.

The ATC posted notices around the grandstand during the recent Everest carnival about the cladding issue.

"The ATC has been working with the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment on fire safety standards to maintain the safety of participants, members and patrons," an ATC statement read. "Like hundreds of buildings across Sydney, the ATC received a Development Control Fire Safety Order which formalises the process and the works to be completed.

"Members and users of the building were notified in early September 2019.

"The ATC has already started implementing the terms of the Order with a number of immediate measures which will assist in the prevention of a fire in the unlikely event of an emergency. ATC will continue working with the NSW Government to complete the required works.

"The safety of everyone attending Royal Randwick is paramount and these measures are not expected to have an impact on the experience for racegoers."

The ATC does not have a timeline for when the work will be carried out. Randwick hosts more than 30 race meetings a year and the grandstand is popular for non-racing events as well.

It will not be the only building project for Randwick, with work on the new Winx grandstand on the southern end of the Queen Elizabeth stand set to start in 2020.

The grandstand is one of 444 building across NSW which are clad with flammable material. The list was released to the NSW Parliament earlier this week, but not made public as it was deemed a security risk.

NSW Better Regulation minister Kevin Andrews said the NSW Cladding Support Unit had been set up to work closely with councils to expedite the assessment of the buildings deemed to be at high risk.

It followed the Grenfell Tower fire in London, which killed more than 70 people, that was fuelled by combustible cladding.



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