

# Cladding risk at RAAF Edinburgh Department of Defence confirms

**The Department of Defence has confirmed five of its buildings are at risk of fire because of flammable cladding — including RAAF Edinburgh north of Adelaide.**

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The Department of Defence has confirmed five of its buildings are a fire risk because of flammable cladding.

Defence audited its 30,000 buildings following the deadly Grenfell Tower fire in London in June 2017, initially finding 208 buildings could be at risk.

Fire engineers have since narrowed the list down to five non-compliant buildings in four states, a Senate committee has heard.

“These buildings are essentially low-rise buildings, they’re not high-rise buildings,” Defence official Steven Grzeskowiak said.

“They’re not buildings that people live in, they’re not buildings that people would be asleep in overnight.”

The buildings have since been fitted with fire-proof awnings as Defence works to replace the cladding by the end of the year.

Defence officials suggested people working in the buildings had been informed of the risk and were practising fire escapes more regularly than others, but could not say when the personnel were told.

Industry Minister Karen Andrews, who has responsibility for cladding and building codes, has claimed rectification works are under way across the five sites.

But Defence officials could not confirm whether this was the case, taking questions about the progress on notice.

The five non-compliant buildings are RAAF Edinburgh in Adelaide, HMAS Penguin, Sydney, HMAS Cairns, RAAF Townsville and Fishermans Bend laboratories, Melbourne.

Earlier this month, a new state audit identified [dozens of SA buildings with dangerous flammable cladding](#) — but their locations will be kept secret due to terrorism and arson fears.

The State Government released findings of its audit aimed at identifying public and private buildings with dangerous levels of cladding known as Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP).


Like the Defence audit, this audit was instigated in July 2017 following the Grenfell Tower disaster, which killed 72 people and injured dozens more..

Two publicly owned buildings are deemed high risk — one is under construction and is not accessible to the public and the other is a toilet block which will be remediated within weeks.

Seven privately owned buildings were assessed as extreme risk, meaning they require immediate action and remedial work.

A further 21 private buildings have been assessed as high risk, requiring remedial action to be carried out within 12 months.



 The 27-storey Grenfell Tower block inferno in June 2017.  
Picture: AFP