

HILLS SHIRE

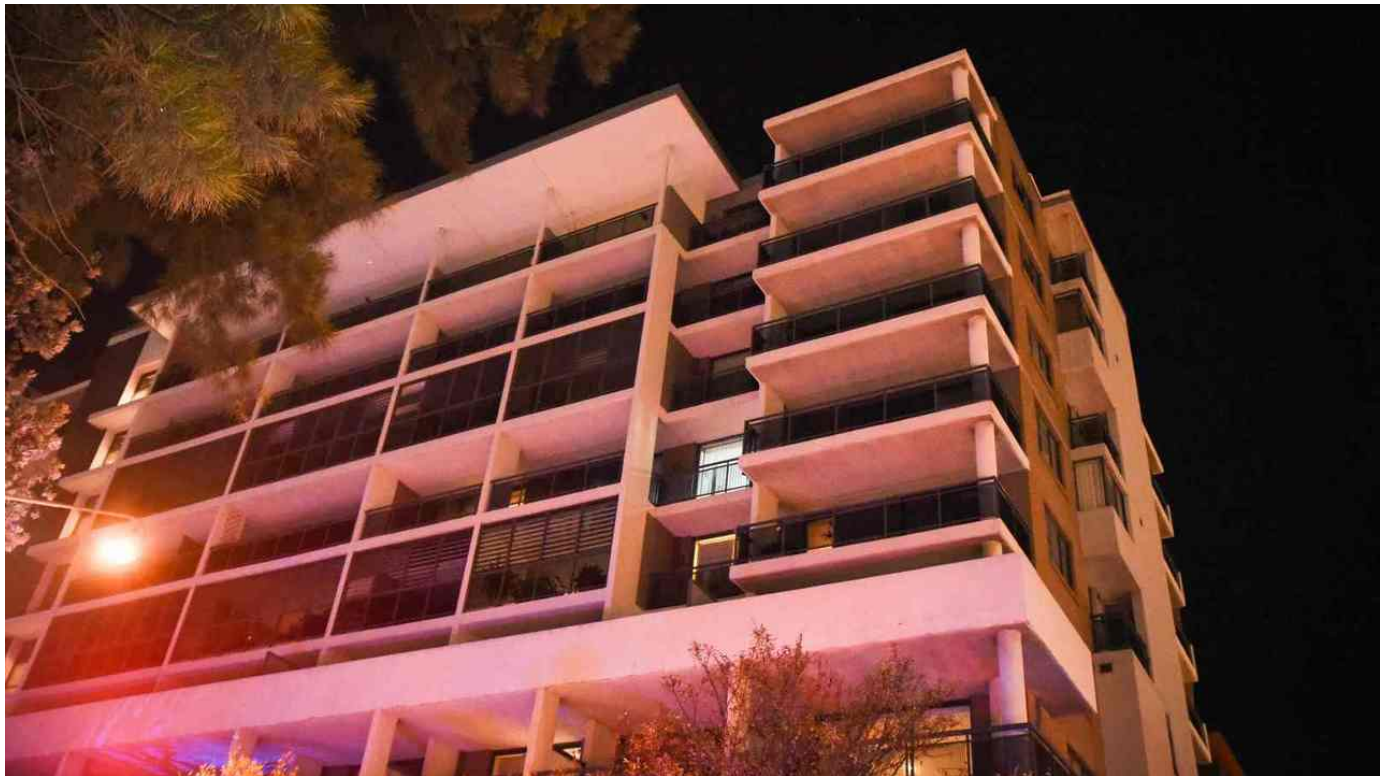
Jean Nassif's Toplace claim cladding legislation has created 'artificial crisis'

A controversial property developer, which is currently facing two separate cases in the Supreme Court, has claimed new cladding legislation has created an "artificial crisis".

Jake McCallum, Urban Affairs Reporter, Hills Shire Times

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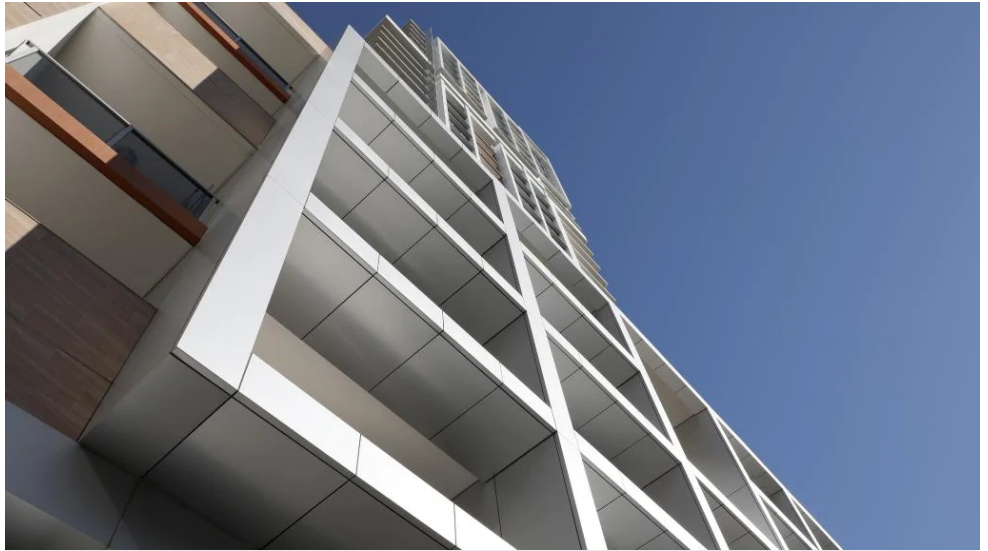
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Controversial western Sydney property developer Toplace has claimed laws surrounding flammable cladding have "created an artificial crisis" in a submission to

the NSW Government Building Standards Inquiry.

Toplace, which is currently undertaking the construction of a series of \$850 million masterplanned residential high-rise towers in the centre of the Castle Hill CBD, demanded owners affected by previously certified flammable products “be compensated by the suppliers, manufacturers or the government” rather than forcing developers to fit the bill.

In the submission to the inquiry, a Toplace Group representative said the focus of new legislation “must be on actual safety”.



potentially combustible cladding on a building by Toplace in Parramatta.

“The new retrospective laws have perhaps unintentionally created an artificial crisis in the industry by flagging buildings which are in fact safe, as being at risk of fire,” the representative said.

The submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry also comes amid [two ongoing Supreme Court cases between Jean Nassif's Toplace and apartment owners.](#)



NSWFR inspection report of the The Atmosphere Towers on the corner of Crane Rd and Terminus St, Castle Hill, have revealed numerous fire safety deficiencies in October, 2018. Picture: Mark Scott



Nomad bikies avoid jail time

The representative said issues surrounding building standards need to be addressed by “developers, builders, consultants, subcontractors, the government, industry regulators, product suppliers, insurers (and) apartment owners”.

“The construction and property development industry cannot be held solely accountable for retrospective changes to building codes, once they have passed certification,” the representative said. “It is Toplace’s view that an independent certifier can carry out their role without having a conflict of interest.



Jean Nassif's Toplace made a submission to the inquiry.

“We support the need for rigorous certification of these independent experts.”

Toplace said there was “no rational alternatives to private certifiers”.

“The system and process can be improved by the implementation of more oversight such as an independent body where concerned stakeholders can have certification reviewed at the end process,” the submission said.



Artist impressions of the Skyview residential development currently under construction by Toplace in Castle Hill.

“This would likely require less expenditure of government funds in restructuring the system.”

Toplace representatives also raised concern around fears “overreactions” around consumer protections “shifts too far in favour of owners and it makes it impossible for the industry to survive”.



Trainer drank bottle of wine, went to gym before arrest



apartments at Charles St, Canterbury. Picture: Justin Lloyd.

Toplace is the developer behind several major residential projects across The Hills, including the Skyview residential precinct, which ranges from 19 to 23 storeys in height, the newly-completed 20 and 21-storey Atmosphere Towers and low-density residential precinct, The Grand, Kellyville.