

# Combustible cladding still present at Perth hospitals, unis and schools



By [Sarah Brookes](#)

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A Perth university has blamed supply chain delays and high demand for cladding replacement works for a delay in remediating potentially risky cladding on nearly a dozen buildings on its campuses.

An Edith Cowan University spokeswoman said the [WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's state-wide audit of combustible cladding](#) found 11 of its 66 buildings required action.



ECU has 11 buildings that require remedial action across its campuses.FAIRFAX

“Supply chain delays caused by COVID-19 have had a significant impact on sourcing of materials, as has the level of demand as many landlords of public buildings in WA are also working to remediate,” she said.

“ECU is working with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety audit manager who supports ECU’s work schedule.

“Remedial works are in progress to address egress issues in all high-risk buildings, with the remainder of the remedial works scheduled to be completed in 2022.”

The University of Western Australia said it had complied with all requirements to replace high-risk cladding on its buildings.



UWA said it had complied with all requirements to replace high-risk cladding on its buildings.

“UWA is working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to agree the extent of replacement of low-to-medium risk cladding on up to six buildings,” a spokeswoman said.

UWA is planning to undertake the works in the second half of 2022, with completion due by April 2023, she said.

Meanwhile the WA Education Department identified 14 schools with potentially combustible cladding but executive director of infrastructure Rob Thomson said there was minimal risk to staff and students.

Thomson said the department initiated its own audit that went above and beyond the minimum standard set by DMIRS in 2017. It assessed all schools completed since 2000 where aluminium composite panels may have been used.

“While most sites were found to have panels that are compliant with current building requirements, the Department of Education is undertaking a two-stage approach to 14 schools,” he said.

“Stage 1 is now complete, with solutions for remediation at 11 of the 14 schools. Of the remaining three schools, two of these only required signage to be relocated, and one did not require any works at all.

“The second stage broadly involves the removal of a small amount of cladding at locations such as external sunshades, external walkways, and some panels at particular locations at the 11 schools.”

Thomson said it was anticipated works would be completed by July 2025.

A WA Health spokeswoman said five hospital sites and facilities still required remediation work.

“Initially, 97 hospital sites were identified as being within the scope of WA Health’s aluminium composite panel audit, of those, 88 sites did not require any remediation works.

“Of the nine remaining hospital sites/facilities, remediation work has been carried out at four of these sites.”