

VIC NEWS

# Bureaucratic bungle halts Docklands building cladding inquiry

**Disciplinary proceedings against the men who signed off on the Lacrosse building’s flammable cladding has been delayed indefinitely because no one is available to hear the case.**

Ellen Whinnett, Sunday Herald Sun

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Bureaucratic bungling is behind the lengthy delay in finalising disciplinary proceedings against the two men who signed off on the [Lacrosse building’s flammable cladding](#).

The *Sunday Herald Sun* can reveal the proceedings against two men — fire safety engineer Con Nicholas and building surveyor Anastasios Galanos — have been halted indefinitely because no one is available to hear the case.

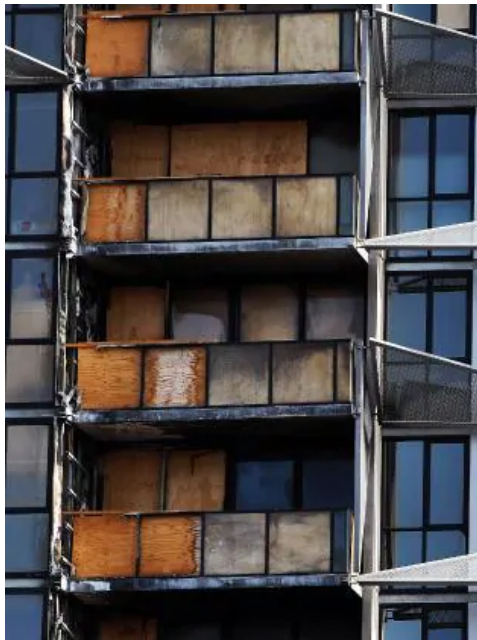
The old Building Practitioners Board was wrapped into the Victorian Building Authority under new laws in 2016 and its only remaining task was to finalise a handful of cases already underway.

These included the cases against Mr Nicholas and Mr Galanos, who were hit with disciplinary proceedings in 2016, several years after the November 2014 fire which tore through the flammable cladding on the Lacrosse tower, forcing more than 400 residents to leave.

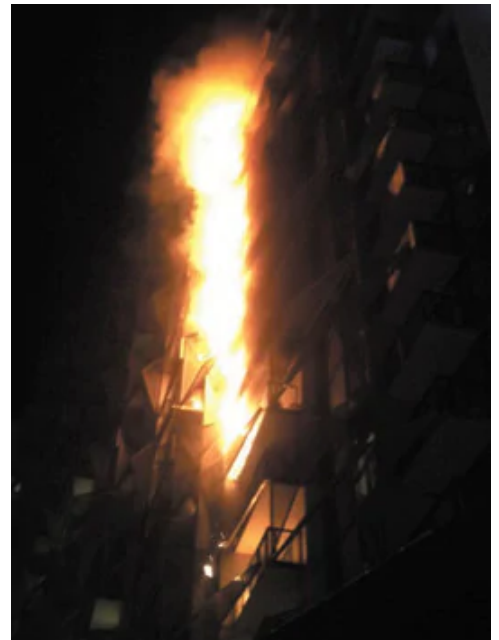
However, most members who sat on the board have resigned, or their terms have expired and they have not been replaced.



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The Lacrosse tower in Docklands where developers used flammable cladding.



The Lacrosse tower fire in Docklands.

The board now cannot get enough people to convene and finalise the cases against the two men, which have been delayed multiple times in the past five years.

The Lacrosse builder, Jim Moschoyiannis from LU Simon, had his case resolved last year, when he was handed a reprimand and ordered to pay \$54,000 in costs after being found to have breached the building code.

LU Simon has since replaced the cladding on the tower.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning confirmed the situation, saying the department was “working to consolidate the membership of the Building Practitioners Board to ensure it is well placed to finalise outstanding disciplinary cases as soon as possible”.

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“Cases before the Building Practitioners Board can only be finalised when all parties are available for the hearings to proceed and there is a variety of reasons why delays have occurred in relation to the outstanding matters,” he said.



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The Building Practitioners Board used to be appointed by the governor-in-council on the minister's recommendations and included people from a range of professions including a lawyer, at least one member of a professional builders association, a member of the Architects Registration Board and a community representative.

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