

Calls mount for the government to reveal which Geelong buildings have combustible cladding

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TAMARA McDONALD and CHANEL ZAGON, Geelong Advertiser | October 9, 2019 3:18pm



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It comes after it was last week exposed that [Kardinia Park holds the dangerous material](#).

An audit continues to identify combustible cladding in the region, as calls mount for the government to reveal which buildings hold the highly-flammable material.

The number of privately owned buildings found to contain combustible cladding has climbed to 23 across Greater Geelong and the Surf Coast.

It's understood the majority of those are residential apartment buildings.

The hike comes after the *Geelong Advertiser* in July revealed an audit had identified [19 privately-owned buildings contained the flammable material.](#)

Four additional City of Greater Geelong buildings have now been added to the list as at September 30, Victorian Building Authority (VBA) figures show.

The VBA refused to confirm which buildings contained the dangerous materials.

State and Federal Liberal MPs are calling for transparency from the State Government.

Geelong-based Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson said refusing to inform Victorians about at-risk buildings was “untenable”.





Cladding undergoing fire safety tests. Picture: Daron Hodder

“Victorians deserve to know the extent of the risk and how the Andrews Labor Government intends to rectify this issue,” Ms Henderson said.

Shadow Minister for Planning Tim Smith last week claimed Kardinia Park was cladded in “the most dangerous combustible material” that was rated at the “highest end of the scale of concern”.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has led an audit of government owned buildings, and the State Government considers the three Greater Geelong buildings uncovered - including Kardinia Park - safe to occupy.

The audit includes hospitals, schools and office buildings.

It's understood Geelong hospital is not included in the trio as it had already undergone cladding rectification work.



Geelong's Kardinia Park is covered in dangerous combustible cladding, shadow planning minister Tim Smith has claimed. Picture: Peter Ristevski

The State Government has set money aside to rectify cladding in public and private buildings.

A spokesman from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning said the State

Government was not going to go against the advice of police and firefighters to publish the addresses of buildings with combustible cladding.

“It’s a common sense approach to avoid the risk of arson,” the spokesman said. “The safety of all Victorians is our priority and we will not apologise for putting people first.”

No additional dangerous cladding has been found in Surf Coast buildings since July, when it was revealed eight privately owned buildings were identified.

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A VBA spokeswoman said when buildings are found to contain combustible cladding, the owner’s corporation and local council were informed and asked to communicate directly with owners and residents to inform them of the audit findings and fire safety tips.

Governments began investigations into combustible cladding following the Grenfell Tower fire in London in 2017.

More than 70 people died and the speed at which the fire spread in the high-rise was largely attributed to its cladding.