

Five SA regional hospitals were investigated for flammable cladding

Five South Australian hospitals potentially clad with flammable panels are on a list of high-priority buildings that required “further investigation”.

Jade Gailberger, Federal Political Reporter, The Advertiser



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The State Government has moved to allay fears over potentially flammable cladding at five regional hospitals identified as needing “further investigation”.

The Government has previously refused to release the exact locations of buildings found to be “of concern”, despite mounting pressure from politicians.

A document obtained by *The Advertiser* reveals major hospitals in Mount Gambier, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla, and Port Lincoln were all identified as having aluminium composite panels.

“(The) hospitals have been identified (and prioritised accordingly) as requiring further investigation,” an audit update from early last year says.



The Whyalla Hospital was one the list. Picture: Bernard Humphreys

A Government spokesman last night said none of the hospitals was rated above a “moderate risk”.

“This is the level assessed as providing adequate safety for occupants and visitors to the buildings,” he said.

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure was tasked with leading the audit in July 2017 following London’s deadly Grenfell Tower fire.

But the department remained tight-lipped when asked by *The Advertiser* if the hospital buildings were safe.

The department also did not respond when asked if any were found to have flammable cladding, what further investigations of the buildings involved, and

what had been done to address the issue.

The document obtained also said that 93 schools were reviewed and “nil buildings” were found to be of concern.

“This includes all schools located in high bush fire prone areas,” it said.

At least 19 councils outside of Adelaide also reported buildings in their areas needed investigating in the second phase of the audit.



Mount Gambier hospital is one of five SA regional hospitals identified as having potentially flammable cladding.

A Local Government Association spokesman said councils were working directly with DPTI on the review.

It comes as SA Best MLC Frank Pangallo, pictured, was asked to pay \$10,000 to get details about clad buildings under Freedom of Information.

Mr Pangallo last week told a State Government committee that a FoI request he made about the audit came with a \$10,000 price-tag because it “involved too many documents”.

Committee chair, Labor MP Kyam Maher, has since demanded DPTI make the documents available to the committee free.

The Advertiser understands the Government is due to sign off on a new audit report that will be made public following a Cabinet meeting next month.