
GEELONG

Audit finds more Geelong buildings with combustible cladding

More buildings across Greater Geelong have been found to contain combustible cladding in an audit searching for the dangerous material. Authorities, however, refuse to publicly reveal where they are. This is why.

TAMARA McDONALD, Geelong Advertiser

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More buildings across Greater Geelong have been found to contain combustible cladding in an audit searching for the dangerous material.

It comes as [Kardinia Park](#) prepares for rectification works on cladding at the site.

Since October last year, an audit of privately-owned buildings has found an additional three containing the flammable material.

The audit has now identified 18 buildings containing [combustible cladding](#) in Greater Geelong.

It has identified eight privately owned buildings on the Surf Coast, with none added to the tally since mid last year.

The Addy understands most of those buildings across the regions are apartment blocks.

The audit has so far found Greater Geelong has the most buildings containing the matter of Victoria's regional municipalities, while the Surf Coast has the second highest number.

The inspection and assessment of buildings identified as in scope for the audit were:

APARTMENT buildings three or more storeys;

SHORT-TERM accommodation buildings such as hotels, motels and students' accommodation three storeys or higher; and

PUBLIC buildings such as private hospitals and schools and aged care facilities that are two storeys or higher.

A Victorian Building Authority spokesman said the statewide cladding audit is continuing through the coronavirus pandemic.

“VBA inspectors have adopted industry-endorsed guidelines to ensure their safety and that of building occupants during building inspections,” the spokesman said.

In October last year it was revealed combustible cladding was present at part of [GMHBA Stadium](#).

The Addy soon after reported that an additional two government-owned buildings in Greater Geelong have been confirmed as containing combustible cladding through the Victorian Government Cladding Rectification Program.

Authorities refused to publicly reveal where they are, but they are considered safe to occupy.

It’s understood no further government-owned buildings in Geelong have been identified as containing the material since.

The State Government acts on the advice of the MFB and Victoria Police and will not publish the addresses of buildings found to have combustible cladding to avoid the risk of arson.

Cladding Safety Victoria chief executive Dan O’Brien said planning is under way for works on Kardinia Park.

“We’ll support [Kardinia Park Stadium Trust](#) in any cladding rectification works in the coming months,” he said.

A Kardinia Park Stadium Trust spokeswoman said the trust, in consultation with Cladding Safety Victoria, was in the process of engaging the necessary consultants to finalise the scope of rectification works at the stadium.

The works will be funded by Cladding Safety Victoria, but KPST did not say how much they would cost.