

# QBCC seeks Whitsunday council approval to prosecute non-compliant buildings

Building owners yet to resolve combustible cladding issues identified after the horrific Grenfell Tower fire may be subject to prosecution pending a council decision and a quickly looming deadline.

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Sky News host Peta Credlin says here in Australia we have our own "cladding crisis" with more than "three thousand" buildings still in an inferno similar to London's Grenfell Tower blaze of 2017. "Millions of dollars were promised, to fix it, but it still hasn't happened, according to a report," Ms Credlin...

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Building owners yet to resolve combustible cladding issues in the Whitsunday region may be subject to prosecution pending a council decision.

In the wake of the horrific Grenfell Tower fire in London in 2017, the Queensland Government amended the Building Regulation 2006 which required private building owners to conduct an assessment of their external cladding.

The Queensland Building Construction Commission was appointed the regulator.

Since bringing in the amendments, several private building owners have failed to comply with their obligations and QBCC has been largely unsuccessful in prosecuting these owners.

The QBCC points to the inadequacy of their existing prosecution powers as the central reason for the lack of success and has now turned to local governments statewide to increase their authority.

Whitsunday Regional Council documents present a letter addressed to council CEO Rodney Ferguson asking for the QBCC to have greater authority to prosecute breaches across the Whitsunday region.

“There are several hundred relevant private buildings throughout the state and seeking specific authorities would be time-consuming and a significant strain on the resources of both council and the QBCC,” QBCC Commissioner Anissa Levy seeking wrote.

Council staff have recommended it grant prosecution authority to the QBCC of building owners within the Whitsunday region.

Council documents state the council would not be required to contribute to the costs of prosecution or be exposed to complaints costs.

There are currently no known combustible cladding cases in the region.

The council voted unanimously to approve QBCC’s request at the April 13 ordinary council meeting.