

NATIONAL VICTORIA CLADDING CRISIS

Secret cladding list won't be revealed despite Marvel Stadium finding

By [Rachel Wells](#)

October 27, 2019 – 1.05pm



The Andrews government won't release its secret list of dangerously clad buildings despite revelations that another public building has been found to have flammable cladding.

The AFL and the City of Melbourne have confirmed flammable cladding was found on the exterior of Marvel Stadium late last year but they maintain the venue is safe for players, patrons and staff.



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The AFL bought the stadium in 2016, 16 years after it opened. Construction began in October 1997 and at the time of its completion in 1999, the cladding was understood to be compliant.

However, late last year authorities identified non-compliant cladding on the exterior of the stadium.

About 1100 properties, including hundreds of apartment buildings across Victoria, have been identified as having flammable cladding but the government is keeping the list secret.

Opposition planning spokesman Tim Smith said Victorians had a "right to know" exactly which buildings were on that list.

"The public are sick of this drip-feed approach," Mr Smith said. "They know there is a problem and they have a right to know what it is.

"If these buildings are safe, as the government says they are, then what have they got to hide? Richard Wynne and Daniel Andrews need to come clean."

It is not the first time a large public building has been found to have combustible cladding.

In 2017, the Royal Women's Hospital and \$1 billion Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre were found to have sections of combustible cladding.

Some cladding panels were removed from the Royal Women's Hospital later that year, while the cladding on the cancer centre was removed before patients moved in.

"We act on the advice of the emergency services who have made it clear on numerous occasions that this list should not be released," Planning Minister Richard Wynne said.



"We act on the advice of the emergency services," says Planning Minister Richard Wynne, with Premier Daniel Andrews. AAP

"Identifying these buildings could make them a target of arson and put the community and emergency services personnel at risk. This is about safety and always will be."

A City of Melbourne spokeswoman said its Municipal Building Surveyor investigated combustible cladding on parts of Marvel Stadium but assured the public the venue was not a safety risk.

"We are working with the stadium to rectify the situation," she said. "Occupants of the stadium are not in immediate danger as a result of this cladding. Essential safety measures in the stadium, such as fire alarms and sprinklers, are carefully monitored and maintained and are working."

On Sunday, AFL spokesman Jay Allen said the cladding in question was assessed as "low risk" and reassured patrons the venue was "safe".

"A section of cladding that was originally installed during the stadium's construction has been extensively analysed as low-risk," he said.

"The stadium then completed some minor recommended remedial works to relevant areas to further mitigate this risk. The area is safe, with no hazard to patron safety."



Rachel Wells



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