

Adelaide City Councillor branded 'reckless' by Planning Minister Stephan Knoll over push to reveal flammable cladding locations

A city councillor's push to reveal details about buildings wrapped in flammable cladding is a "reckless" move that would endanger the public, Planning Minister Stephan Knoll says.

Celeste Villani, The Messenger

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A city councillor's push to reveal details about buildings wrapped in flammable cladding is a "reckless" move that would endanger the public, Planning Minister Stephan Knoll says.

Cr Phil Martin will this month demand that Adelaide City Council reveal the location of CBD buildings with the dangerous aluminium composite panels, amid fears people are unwittingly living or working in firetraps.

The State Government on Thursday announced that high-risk cladding was found on dozens of SA buildings during its audit, following the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Seven buildings were found to have “extreme” levels, and some remediation work has started.


Mr Knoll has refused to disclose the exact locations.

“For those extreme risk buildings, they will be fixed right away and the high risk buildings will be fixed over the next 12 months,” he said.

“If (Cr) Phil Martin wishes to go down this path it would be reckless and will increase the risk to public safety.”

Councils have power under their development acts to issue defect notices to building owners, who are then required to inform tenants.



 Planning Minister Stephan Knoll. Picture: Tricia Watkinson

Terrorism and arson fears drove the nation’s building ministers to agree not to publicly disclose buildings with the dangerous material, Federal Industry Minister Karen Andrews said.

In 2017, *The Advertiser* revealed almost 200 buildings in Adelaide’s CBD were identified as being “of concern” in the first phase of the audit.

But Cr Martin wants details about all buildings, with potentially flammable cladding, information about the severity and remediation timelines.

“I just do not buy this line about terrorists and arsonists descending on City of Adelaide because we have buildings with aluminium cladding — I am sure there are much more appealing targets for terrorist organisations around the world,” Cr Martin said, raising concerns about who would fund the repairs.

An Adelaide City Council spokeswoman said letters about the outcome of the audit would be sent to affected building owners “shortly”.

“This correspondence will contain the risk rating and any potential rectification actions required within a specified time frame.”

Opposition infrastructure spokesman Tom Koutsantonis said people had the right to know if they were living or working in a “death trap”.

Property Council SA boss, Daniel Gannon, said it accepted the government’s advice not to publicly release the details.

“However, it is important to ensure building owners, property managers and landlords are communicating the relevant message to those impacted,” Mr Gannon said.

Centre Alliance Senator Rex Patrick has backed Mr Martin, and said it was secrecy that had stalled the remedy process.

“People who occupy or work in or visit buildings that present a safety risk have an absolute entitlement to know,” Senator Patrick said.

He last month introduced a ban on flammable cladding imports, which is before the Senate.