

Cladding watchdog to ensure tenants know if they are living in dangerous buildings

The State Government is creating a cladding response watchdog after dozens of buildings were found to have high risk levels of flammable cladding.

Matt Smith, Political Editor, The Advertiser

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Owners of dangerous buildings will have to let residents and workers know if they are living or working in a high fire-risk property by a new watchdog to be unveiled by the State Government on Wednesday.

The Government last week revealed [28 South Australian buildings had high or extreme fire-risk ratings](#), following an audit into flammable cladding.

The audit was instigated in July 2017 following [London's Grenfell Tower fire](#), which killed 72 people and injured dozens more.



The Grenfell Tower fire killed 72 people and injured dozens more. Picture: Natalie Oxford / AFP

But the Government was criticised for saying the process of informing residents and workers would be left to councils and property owners.

This has prompted the appointment of a “cladding response co-ordinator”.

Former Local Government Association CEO and current Kangaroo Island Commissioner Wendy Campana has been appointed to the new role [amid concerns tenants of dangerous properties](#) risked being left uninformed.

Ms Campana’s key responsibilities will include:

LIAISING with building owners to ensure that occupiers have been advised of the assessment


PROVIDING appropriate support where needed

HELPING and supporting building owners in expediting reviews and approvals for the remedial actions they propose to take to reduce the risk.

Planning Minister Stephan Knoll said the safety of South Australians was the Government’s paramount priority.

“Ms Campana will be tasked with ensuring that building owners fulfil their legal and moral obligation to notify their tenants and occupants,” Mr Knoll said.



 Wendy Campana will become the “cladding response co-ordinator”.

“I am advised that councils have sent notifications to all private building owners and Ms Campana will help ensure tenants are kept informed.

“She will also ensure that rectification works are carried out as quickly as possible by helping to co-ordinate councils, building owners, fire authorities and other state government agencies.”

Last week, Opposition infrastructure spokesman Tom Koutsantonis said the Government needed to provide more details to residents.

Mr Knoll said that, in line with other states, [security and safety was a primary reason not to reveal the exact locations of buildings](#) with significant cladding issues.

Mr Koutsantonis said he understood the reasons behind not making the locations public but people living and working in the high-risk buildings needed to be informed.

“Any South Australian going home to live in an apartment has a right to know from their government, whether or not the building they are staying in, the building their children are sleeping in, is safe,” Mr Koutsantonis said last week.

In Parliament on Tuesday, Mr Knoll could not confirm that none of the 28 high-risk buildings had been given a defect notice.

Mr Knoll said Ms Campana has a wealth of experience co-ordinating between local and state government sectors and other stakeholders.

The Government would continue to provide updates, he said.