

brisbane times

NATIONAL QUEENSLAND CONSTRUCTION

18,000 Queensland buildings registered to check for flammable cladding

By [Lucy Stone](#)

March 28, 2019 – 9.38pm



More than 18,000 Queensland buildings have been registered online as part of the state's efforts to remove dangerously flammable cladding from apartment buildings and office blocks.

Friday is the final day for building owners to register their properties online and complete a checklist to ensure their buildings do not have combustible cladding.



Cladding was removed from the Princess Alexandra Hospital. BRADLEY KANARIS/FAIRFAX MEDIA

Last year the state government amended building legislation to introduce new laws covering combustible cladding on multi-dwelling properties such as apartment buildings and office buildings.

In September 2017, [flammable cladding was found](#) on five Queensland [government buildings](#) including the [Princess Alexandra Hospital](#), Logan Hospital, a Queensland Rail building in Brisbane and the former Children's Court on Quay Street.

It followed several fires, including the Grenfell Tower fire in Britain in June 2017, which killed more than 70 people.

The Queensland government then began an audit of all building cladding materials between 1994 and 2004.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission commissioner Brett Bassett said owners should check their buildings for any dangerous cladding "as a matter of urgency".

"Combustible cladding is a serious issue, as we have seen with another cladding fire recently in Victoria at the Neo200 building," Mr Bassett said.

"Most buildings won't need any work done, but we have to check just in case, because safety is our priority."

The Princess Alexandra's flammable cladding has all been removed, according to a Question on Notice to Health Minister Steven Miles, while remediation work at Cairns, Mackay, Nambour, Logan and Gold Coast hospitals were "of a minor nature".

The total cost of the remediation work at the PA would be determined after a replacement cladding procurement contract had been finalised.

Queensland's new reporting requirements cover all multi-storey private buildings built or modified since January 1, 1994.

A Queensland Building and Construction Commission spokeswoman said the Safer Building process had a three-part checklist for owners of relevant buildings to complete.

"Currently 18,513 building assessments have been registered on the website, with some 75 per cent of completed assessments requiring no further action after Part 1," she said.

"Owners continuing to Part 2 of the checklist have until 29 May 2019 to provide a report from a building industry professional to the QBCC which will further narrow down the number of buildings that may be affected by potentially combustible cladding."

Building owners who did not self-report their building and complete the first phase of a checklist online could face penalties of up to \$2611 and be forced to go onto the second phase.

Any buildings that continue on to the second phase of the checklist will have to be investigated by professionals to ensure the dangerous cladding isn't present.

Property owners have until May 2021 to complete a full set of checks and compliance reporting to the building commission to ensure their buildings are safe.

In February this year, a fire at a Melbourne CBD block linked to combustible cladding forced residents out, some potentially unable to return to their homes for more than a year.



Lucy Stone



Lucy is the urban affairs reporter for the Brisbane Times, with a special interest in Brisbane City Council.
