



MEDIA RELEASE

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REVOLUTIONARY NEW FIRE-RESISTANT CLADDING TO TACKLE BUILDING SAFETY AT THE FRONT LINE

The world's safest fire-resistant cladding has been launched in Australia this week in an effort to tackle one of the 'greatest safety threats' to our built communities.

The product, created by Brisbane company **ExinTech**, has secured a coveted innovation patent and surpassed every compliance requirement mandated by Australia's National Construction Code.

Developed in direct response to the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in London in 2017, ExinClad panels can withstand temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees Celsius, dropping less than 100gms of ash debris from the nine-metre full scale fire test structure.

ExinTech General Manager, Anthony Lee, said at these temperatures, alternative cladding products including solid aluminium have dropped solid debris fragments as heavy as 20 kilograms, posing significant safety threats in the event of a high-rise fire.

"Unbelievably, the AS 5113 full scale fire test is not a mandatory test for high-rise cladding products in Australia," Mr Lee said. "Building and apartment owners are not aware of this, nor are they aware that some approved cladding replacement products have failed this test."

Australia's accelerating urbanisation means more than 1.2 million people reside in multi-storey apartments and an even greater number work from commercial high-rises each day.

"Of these buildings, thousands contain unsafe, highly combustible cladding similar to products used on the Grenfell Tower in West London, where 72 people tragically lost their lives in June 2017," Mr Lee said.

"The prevalence of combustible cladding and the extreme risks it presents remains one of the greatest safety threats to our built communities.

"After watching the Grenfell tragedy unfold, we began a three-year journey of innovation and extensive testing to prevent a similar tragedy occurring again – and that's exactly what we've done.

"The proprietary technology in ExinClad fuses Zincanneal steel and Aluminium into one unique high performance non-combustible façade panel.

"ExinClad not only passes all statutory and building material compliance requisites of the National Construction Code, it also surpasses Australian compliance requirements having successfully tested to AS 5113 full scale fire testing with the CSIRO.

"It would be incredible to see an Australian innovation on Australian buildings, and worldwide, that is not only fire-safe and resists hail damage, but is conducive to great design outcomes for our cities."

Mr Lee said most Australian jurisdictions will reach key deadlines in 2021 for advancing rectification work to remove unsafe cladding from the community.

"It is incumbent on all governments to ensure they fully understand all the risks involved during a fire event to ensure one kind of unsafe cladding isn't being replaced with another," he said.

ExinClad's AS 5113 CSIRO full-scale fire testing was undertaken in a NATA accredited laboratory and the results have been independently assessed and supported in a report completed by GHD Engineering.

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About ExinTech

ExinTech is an Australian, family-owned company with over 40 years' experience in the development and manufacture of wall cladding systems. Our dedication to research and development has positioned us as an innovator within the architectural façade industry and a global leader in the development of non-combustible cladding systems.