



Advertisement

[Property](#)[Commercial](#)[Cladding crisis](#)

# Victoria airs laws to chase 'dodgy' builders for cladding bills

**Michael Bleby** *Senior Reporter*



Oct 15, 2019 — 12.23pm



Victoria has announced new laws allowing the state government to chase builders for the cost of cladding rectification, prompting the main industry body to fume that it is being singled out for a problem caused by many players, including the government.

On Tuesday Planning Minister Richard Wynne said the Building Amendment (Cladding Rectification) Bill 2019, allowing the government to raise building permit costs as well as create the "step-in" power to claw back costs on behalf of owners corporations, would be effective by year-end.

"It gives a robust tool to pursue those that have done the wrong thing," Mr Wynne told *The Australian Financial Review*.



Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne says the new laws will give government a 'robust tool' to chase builders for costs. **Pat Scala**

"The advice provided to government was clear that we needed to ensure that we had an adequate pathway to in fact really step in in place of a body corporate to pursue building professionals and builders who've done the wrong thing."

But the new law, crucial to allowing a clawback of costs to rectify combustible cladding on a first group 15 buildings, out of what the government says will be a total 500 that are due to start rectification work before year-end, put all the focus

## Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

Advertisement

---

"The majority of builders are not cowboys and the majority are not dodgy," Ms Casson told the *Financial Review*.

"There are just a few that probably have done the wrong thing and should be held to account. But that's not the story being put forward today, unfortunately."



**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6  
per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

**RELATED**

**Architect Elenberg Fraser, consultants hit for Lacrosse cladding, not LU Simon**

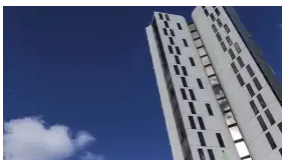
"We have talked a lot about our members not walking away from their response," she said.

"But to be fair we do need to look at the whole supply chain, as well as agencies that have overseen the approval of projects and buildings as well."

While the circumstance around every cladding-affected building was different, a VCAT judgment earlier over the installation of flammable cladding on Melbourne's Lacrosse residential tower that assigned greater liability to the fire engineer, building surveyor and architect than to the builder showed the matter was not as clear-cut as the government was making it out to be, Ms Casson said.

"There's major evidence that showed it's a much bigger issue than just builders alone," she said.

The Lacrosse judgment is being appealed.

**RELATED**

**Lacrosse cladding appeal to shine a light on construction contracts**

**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

### Leading property coverage delivered to your inbox

Sign up to our new weekly Inside Property newsletter

SIGN UP NOW

Save

Share

License article

#### READ MORE

Cladding crisis

Construction

Victoria residential property

**Michael Bleby** writes on real estate specialising in construction, infrastructure, architecture based in our Melbourne newsroom. *Connect with Michael on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Email Michael at [mbleby@afrc.com.au](mailto:mbleby@afrc.com.au)*



#### MOST VIEWED IN PROPERTY

1 WeWork labouring to beat cash crunch

# Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.

GET OFFER

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)




EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FOR SALE

CONTACT AGENT


FOR SALE

**26-58 The Crescent MILDURA VIC**

 Industrial / Warehouse

 13,118m<sup>2</sup>

**Puma Baldivis Corner Ridge Blvd and Nairn Drive BALDIVIS WA**

 Retail

 180m<sup>2</sup>

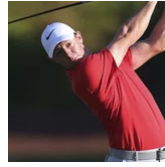
**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

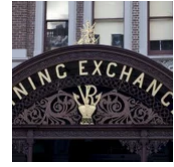
Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

RECOMMENDED

**McIlroy to front Golf Channel's digital push down under**



**If we're dumb, how come we're rich?**



**Meet the family offices backing property float HomeCo**



**False start has Karoon running out of energy**



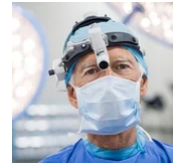
powered by plista

PROMOTED

Mozo  
**The Home Loans Banks Don't Want You To Find**



Health Insurance  
**Older Aussies Outraged Over Private Health Costs Are Flocking To This...**



Home Loans Comparison  
**Homeow**



UNHCR  
**Donate Today to**



**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

suffering  
from  
malnutrit  
ion now



from only  
\$195.  
Browse  
collection



powered by plista

---

## THE AUSTRALIAN Financial Review Magazine

How we created this year's Power issue of AFR Magazine

Australia's 10 most covertly powerful people

Australia's 10 most powerful people in 2019

Why Scott Morrison and his inner circle are on the rise

The five most powerful people in education

## BOSS

We're ready to boom, says Incitec Pivot's Jeanne Johns

Company directors wrestle with competing demands

WILLIAMS GROUP CEO: 'I'm not a CEO'

# Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6 per week.

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)



Why the first all-electric Porsche is not an SUV

Swimming with sharks off Ningaloo Reef

LA rock meets Scandi cool at Anine Bing's first Australian outpost

## Special Reports

The brands driving a sustainable future

Generating yield in a low interest rate environment

Start-ups offer enormous rewards but skill and patience required

Property investors thinking beyond the home

Social impact integral to entrepreneurial success, say young

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[LOG IN](#)

[Subscription Terms](#)

---

[Contact & Feedback](#)

---

[Markets Data](#)

**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6  
per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)

**Flash Sale. Unlock the AFR for just \$6  
per week.**

[GET OFFER](#)

Already a subscriber? [Log in](#)