

Palaszczuk Government to extend SAFER BUILDINGS PROGRAM deadlines to assist property owners

Peak Strata Body supports extension and common-sense compliance checks

The Palaszczuk Government will provide an extension to the compliance period for Part 2 and Part 3 of its Safer Buildings Program relating to combustible and flammable cladding materials to give property owners and bodies corporate more time to meet deadlines around reporting buildings with potentially combustible cladding.

The decision follows representations by the State's peak strata body, Strata Community Association (Qld).

Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni, met with construction industry peak bodies (convened as the Ministerial Construction Council) last week, following talks with Strata Community Association (Qld).

"Property Owners now have additional time to shop around and get their buildings assessed at a competitive price," Mr de Brenni said in a media release by the Department of Housing and Public Works.

He said the two-month extension recommended by Strata Community Association (Qld) and backed by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) will see the Stage 2 deadline extended to 31 July 2019 and Part 3 (fire engineer details to the QBCC) extended until 31 October 2019.

"Building owners, particularly bodies corporate, will now benefit from an extension to complete the checklist," Mr de Brenni said.

"The Queensland Government will also provide additional technical information, as some building professionals reported difficulty interpreting the definitions in the regulations."

Strata Community Association (Qld) specifically asked the State Government and the QBCC to look at responses provided from building owners in Stage 2 and to make a considered and common-sense evaluation on whether Stage 3 fire engineer inspections would be needed, but this has yet to be confirmed.

SCA (Qld) President, Simon Barnard: "The Minister is to be congratulated for his swift response to our concerns that tight compliance timeframes would see many building owners in Stage 2 automatically and unnecessarily carried to Stage 3."

"However, we continue to urge the QBCC to carefully examine respondents' Stage 2 declarations to ensure buildings are not unnecessarily carried to Stage 3, where they would thereby incur the very significant costs of compliance associated with this Stage."

"Every resident in a Strata building has the right to be safe in their own home and the assessment of the material in Stage 2 will ensure hazardous materials are identified. "

Mr Barnard said this is a great outcome, saving Queenslanders collectively millions of dollars.