

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 408**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 20 April 2021**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to bonded laminate materials included in Cl.9(e)(vii) of the Federal Building Code of Australia (BCA) as suitable for use where non-combustible cladding is required yet excluded from the list of material types not considered to be 'combustible cladding' in s160 of the Building Regulation 2006 (Qld)—

Will the Minister advise the government's justification for excluding bonded laminate materials from the list in s160 of the Regulation and if the government is considering including bonded laminates in that provision for consistency with the BCA?

**ANSWER**

It is the Government's priority to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of Queensland residents and visitors in the buildings where they live, work and visit.

In June 2017, the Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce (Taskforce) was established in response to heightened international concern about buildings with potentially non-conforming combustible cladding following the fatal Grenfell Tower fire.

The Taskforce established the combustible cladding checklist, which is designed to identify which private buildings are affected by combustible cladding and whether cladding rectification work is needed to achieve an acceptable level of safety.

The Taskforce considered the National Construction Code (NCC) requirements when determining the list of materials considered to be 'combustible cladding' for the purposes of the checklist. It was noted that the NCC provides bonded laminated materials may be used wherever a non-combustible material is required, provided the core is also non-combustible.

However, at the time, the Taskforce had identified that several commonly used aluminium composite panels (ACP) – a form of bonded laminated material – did not meet this requirement despite being generally accepted as compliant. Further, CodeMark certificates used to demonstrate NCC compliance had also been withdrawn for a number of ACP.

Therefore, to ensure that any potential fire risk associated with ACP could be identified and assessed, bonded laminated materials were not automatically excluded from the definition of 'combustible cladding'.

The Queensland Government has now banned the use of certain highly flammable ACP (i.e. with a polyethylene core greater than 30 per cent by mass) in new building work. Bonded laminated materials can still be used where it is demonstrated that the NCC requirements for non-combustibility are met.