

VBA supports decision to remove residents from apartments

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) supports today's decision by the City of Kingston to remove remaining residents from an apartment complex, after the building was deemed no longer safe for occupation.

The VBA's Statewide Cladding Audit convened a panel made up of fire safety experts to assess the building. The panel recommended the property be vacated after an extensive inspection yesterday.

Most of the units are currently vacant. The remaining permanent residents will be allowed 48 hours to vacate the property.

If current residents are unable to find alternate accommodation, the City of Kingston will be able to assist them with immediate needs.

The VBA's Chief Executive Officer, Sue Eddy, said she understood this could be a distressing time for the residents, but safety must take priority.

"I know this relocation may cause anxiety, but I want to assure the Victorian public this was not a decision taken lightly," she said.

Ms Eddy said the building has had numerous defects identified in the decade since construction.

"Having reviewed the state of the building and the numerous fire risks it currently presents, experts believe it is no longer safe for people to live in the building."

The VBA understands owners and residents will want to return to a safe and compliant building as soon as possible.

The VBA's number one priority is public safety. Anybody who has concerns about combustible cladding on their apartment should contact the Cladding Support Line on 1300 456 542.

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Media Enquiries

Karen Lyon, Communications Manager – **Phone:** 03 9618 9316 **Email:** communications@vba.vic.gov.au

Website: vba.vic.gov.au

Twitter: @VicBuilding **Instagram:** @VictorianBuildingAuthority **Facebook:** @VictorianBuildingAuthority