



## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Q1.

*The CHAIR: Under the current National Construction Code, though, it is compliant with the construction code to be building these large walls of aluminium cladding with the gap behind it and no barriers. Is that compliant with the National Construction Code at the moment?*

*Ms COCKBURN: We have not used aluminium for quite a while for that reason.*

*The CHAIR: Very sensible.*

*Ms COCKBURN: My understanding is we need to provide barriers at each floor. So that is what we do as a part of our practice. The BCA is a minimum standard and we seek to achieve above that.*

*The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Who inspects the cavity barriers?*

*Ms COCKBURN: That is done as part of—we document it and then that the construction is carried out in accordance with those documents.*

*The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: So your expectation would be that the certifier would then check that these cavity barriers are in place, or does it fall on the fire accreditation person? I am happy for you to take it on notice.*

*Ms COCKBURN: I think on notice we can probably come back with that.*

## Institute of Architects Response:

As architects, it is our role to design and provide documentation of the façade system for a project. In complex projects this is often done in conjunction with a specialist Façade Engineer. When it comes to the specific inspection of cavity barriers within a façade system, we understand the building practitioner commissions a sub-contractor to provide him with a certificate that this element is in place. As it is not within our remit to engage this sub-consultant, we can provide no further specific information as to the qualifications of this sub-consultant.



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Q2.

*The CHAIR: It sounds to me like aluminium cladding is in a "get out of jail free" category under the current regime. Is that fair or not fair, Ms Cockburn?*

*Ms COCKBURN: I personally cannot comment on that. If we walk away from what is currently happening and we look to what we want to happen, if we have that as a minimum standard—and I think we will probably take on notice whether it is just that standard, or particular parts of that standard, or other standards as well.*

*The CHAIR: If you would not mind. Could you also take on notice whether or not the 15.30.3 standard is an adequate test for the fire safety of cladding?*

*Ms COCKBURN: Sure. Also, understanding architects being great generalists, we would also be relying on our specialist advice with regard to that.*

#### **Institute of Architects Response:**

Given our qualifications and role in the design and documentation of buildings, it is not within our expertise to provide a determination on the adequacy of testing for fire safety. We understand the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) in conjunction with Fire Engineers would be best placed to advise on this matter.

*We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*