MEDIA RELEASE 16th August 2107

**Cladding Taskforce to commence pilot audit**

The Victorian Cladding Taskforce today announced the start of a pilot visual building inspection program which will help determine the extent of aluminium cladding in Victorian buildings.

The pilot will run over the next two weeks and will be critical in informing the Taskforce of the time and cost of rolling out the full audit program.

Dandenong, Moreland, Monash, Port Phillip, and Whittlesea Councils will take part in the pilot audit which will target buildings constructed from 2005 till now.

As part of the pilot they will also look at the prevalence of exterior cladding products in residential, health and aged care buildings above three storeys high.

The Taskforce is seeking expert advice from government authorities, key agencies, including fire engineers and industry professionals, to determine the most thorough, timely and practical approach to this complex and critical issue.

The Victorian Cladding Taskforce was established in July this year by the Victorian Government to investigate the extent of non-compliant cladding on Victorian buildings.

The Taskforce will deliver a report on its interim findings to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne on the 31st of October 2017.

 **Quote attributable to Victorian Cladding Taskforce CEO Stan Krpan**

*“We are currently developing an audit methodology and scope to ensure that public health and safety are paramount.”*

**Quote attributable to Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group President John Prendergast**

*“The Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group is very pleased to be participating in this extremely important project to ensure safer buildings.”*