

LOCKHART FIRE

31st May 2018

Dear Members & Clerks,

You will all be aware of the fire that occurred on the scaffold at Lockhart Chambers this morning, for your information, I can advise the following:

- The fire was contained to the scaffold;
- The fire investigators are currently investigating the ignition point; their current theory is the most likely cause is faulty electrical appliance but investigations are ongoing;
- All of the old flammable cladding was fortunately completely removed last week;
- There were no hot-works taking place this morning, the builders who were on-site when the fire started were pinning the old cladding, painting on the waterproofing and sealing the windows with silicone;
- The fire looked much worse than it actually was and the reason it spread so quickly was because of the flammable mesh that surrounded the scaffold, the fire investigators advised CCL staff that this was the same issue they had at a recent fire in Circular Quay and they have been dealing with the authorities to have it banned. The Builders have subsequently produced certification documentation for the mesh and the scaffolding, the installation of the mesh was a Council requirement;
- There are a couple of cracked windows on levels 11 & 12 but apart from that there is no damage to the internal of the building and the building structure. CCL's structural engineers and fire engineers have been engaged to come to site for a final sign off later today;
- The entrance to Lockhart Chambers remains closed for the moment but we expect it to re-open within a couple of hours;
- Members can gain entrance to their Chambers through the Phillip Street entrance on Level 1, the fire brigade cleared the building for re-occupation around 9am;
- Macquarie Street is currently opening (in stages) and the fire brigade have formally handed the site back to CCL;
- The Builders are currently cleaning up the site now;
- The existing scaffold does not need to be removed as the damage was very limited, there will need be some repairs but work will progress on the Lockhart façade as soon as the scaffold has been cleaned and repaired;
- All of the fire alarms and EWIS for the buildings worked as they should and the building was immediately evacuated and CCL were quickly able to identify from the access logs who was in the building and also from our contractor on-site software who was on the scaffold so everyone was quickly accounted for. None of the sprinklers were activated.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Debbie George
General Manager

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