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1 July 2026

The Coroner
Coroners Court
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank Vic 3006

By email: cpuresponses@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner

Response to Recommendations for Ortiz, Wells, Cases COR 2019 005734 Ortiz / COR 2020 0018218 Wells / COR 2020 004839 Willoughby / COR 2020 004808 Mills / COR 2020 004397 Kelentric / COR 2020 003949 Slade - Findings into death without inquest

On 12 March 2026 the Coroners Court of Victoria advised the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC) of recommendations in relation to the deaths of:

1. Rosendo **Ortiz** - COR 2019 005734
2. Peter **Wells** - COR 2020 001821
3. Nigel **Willoughby** - COR 2020 004839
4. Ashleigh **Mills** - COR 2020 004808
5. Marko **Kelentric** - COR 2020 004397
6. Carol Fay **Slade** - COR 2020 003949

Recommendation made in the Findings for **Ortiz** and **Wells**:

“(iii) With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Victorian Building Authority consult with Fire Rescue Victoria and the Country Fire Authority to introduce improvements to the smoke alarm requirements within the Victorian Building Regulations.”

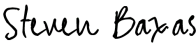
To which the BPC responds that it will engage with Fire Rescue Victoria and Country Fire Authority, to arrive at a consensus on improvements required, within the next four weeks. As the VBA / BPC does not write legislation, the BPC will then engage with the Department of Transport, to advocate for any changes that may be required in the Victorian Building regulations. The engagement with the Department of Transport will occur within 2 months.

Recommendation made in the Findings for **Willoughby, Mills, Kelentric** and **Slade**:

“(v) / (iii) With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Victorian Building Authority publishes guidance to clarify who can design, install and certify home fire sprinklers to the FPAA101D specification.”

To which the BPC responds that it will write and publish, Guidance Material / Practice Note, *“to clarify who can design, install and certify home fire sprinklers to the FPAA101D specification,”* within 2 months.

Yours sincerely

Signed by:

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Steven Baxas
State Building Surveyor
2/7/2026 | 2:53 PM AEST