LANDLORD CHARGED AFTER FIRE KILLED SIX

Mikaela Mulveney

A woman has been charged with failing to install fire alarms following a fatal house fire that claimed six lives and destroyed three houses in Queensland last year.

Wayne Godinet, 34, and his five sons, aged three to 11, were killed in a home on Russell Island, southeast of Brisbane, when it went up in flames in August 2023.

The children's mother, Samantha Stephenson, and her sister escaped the blaze, but Godinet and the children became trapped upstairs before the second storey collapsed.

Donna Rose Beadel, 61, from Tweed Heads is alleged to be the owner of the property and has been issued a notice to appear on "one count of owners must install smoke alarms".

Under the Fire and Emergency Services act, the maximum penalty for failing to install a smoke alarm is a $774 fine.

The legislation requires a property to have smoke alarms on each story, in every bedroom and in hallways.

Real Estate Institute of Queensland chief executive Antonia Mercorella said there has been sufficient time to prepare for the new smoke alarm legislation for residential properties.

“There is no excuse for lessors not meeting smoke alarm requirements. If you’re going to be a property investor, it’s your responsibility to comply with this legislation,” she said.

Ms Beadel is expected to appear at Cleveland Magistrates Court on March 26.