

## Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

Attention Queensland Media

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### **PEAK STRATA BODY CALLS ON STATE GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE CHANGE FOR 1.1. MILLION QLD APARTMENT OWNERS AND RESIDENTS**

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The State Government is being warned that it may face a major electoral backlash if strata scheme legislation that 1.1 million Queenslanders is not modernised and amended to the new demands of community living.

The current legislation is 20 years old and does not adequately address issues such as Airbnb, the keeping of pets and majority decisions to address issues such as fixing concrete cancer.

Queensland is falling behind other Australian states in modernising laws for unit and strata owners and it is costing the State and owners millions of dollars.

Strata industry leaders say they are wary that a Queensland property law review (started in 2014), isn't being given the necessary State Government attention and that it is time to move forward."

Late last year, New South Wales ushered in 90 new laws for their 2 million plus apartment owners, while Victoria is currently in the last stages of doing the same for their 1.6 million owners.

After recently advising the Housing Hon. Minister Mick de Brenni on law reversals, Strata Community Australia (Qld) is hoping to put property law reform at the top of the State Government's 2017 to-do list.

Simon Barnard is President of Strata Community Australia (Qld) and says recent dealings with the Housing Minister to fix controversial changes to the Home Warranty Scheme re-opened the door for common sense property law discussions, and now is the time to push ahead. (Eds: see attached)

"It's 20 years this year since the key piece of property legislation in Queensland was created and we want to see archaic legislation amended for Queensland owners, before the end of 2017."

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“Our conversations with the Housing Minister late last year gave us confidence that there is a case for strata legislation to be taken seriously, and we hope that we will achieve some reforms to 21<sup>st</sup> century laws governing apartment and unit owners in \_\_\_\_\_.”

Mr Barnard says SCA (Qld) worked closely with Minister de Brenni last year to initiate changes to the insurance provided under the Home Warranty Scheme (governed by the Queensland Building & Construction Commission), which would've seen some apartment owners face insurance costs in excess of 200% higher than house owners for simple but necessary works.

But, Mr Barnard says law reversals must not be mistaken for progress and says SCA (Qld) will be seeking meetings with the Housing Minister and Attorney-General to continue progress throughout 2017.

“The challenge facing apartment and unit owners in \_\_\_\_\_ is that modern living demands are not being met by “fired” legislation and while the government has acknowledged that, the timing must be now to implement the change discussed on paper for the last 3 years.”

“Controversial matters like the keeping of pets, short term letting and smoking on common property have evolved, along with the day to day compliance that managers now respond to, and we want to see the recommendations that have been put to the sector passed through parliament.”

“Queensland's property market is vastly different to what it was five years ago, so you can imagine the strain that almost 20 year old laws are placing on such a progressive sector.”

“We are asking for legislation to keep up with modern living choices and the digital revolution so strata managers should be better able to guide their communities, and we're looking forward to hearing advice from the State Government on when such fundamental change will be pushed along in government.”

“In a time where choice is so important to consumers, our fastest growing property sector is struggling to provide exactly that, and we're adamant that must change for the sake of the multi-billion dollar growth.”

ENDS

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