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Attention Queensland Media

24 February, 2017

APARTMENT AND UNIT OWNERS FACE KERBSIDE COLLECTION HEADACHES UNDER ‘UNFAIR’ NEW COUNCIL PLANS

BODIES CORPORATE ORDERED TO STORE RUBBISH ON-SITE UNTIL PICK UPS CAN BE ARRANGED

Brisbane City Council's annual *kerbside collection* could be set to turn into a dreaded time of the year for apartment and unit owners, after a new system of collection was recently communicated to bodies corporate.

In what has been branded ‘utter discrimination’ by strata property leaders, apartment and unit owners will no longer be able to place rubbish out on the kerb for collection, and instead need to store all rubbish on-site.

In a letter going out to bodies corporate on the southside recently, a warning was issued that items placed on the kerb will now be considered “illegal dumping” and fines will be issued to offending properties.

Heavily used areas like visitor parking, barbecue areas and storage units have been suggested as an alternate dumping ground by council and the peak organisation for strata property owners says it is ridiculous.

“This is nothing short of utter discrimination against the growing number of Brisbane residents who call apartments and units home,” Strata Community Australia (QLD) President Simon Barnard said today.

“To have a situation where body corporates are threatened with fines and collection costs when doing the right thing by their rubbish, while houses all down the same street are not, is the definition of unfair.”

“How can Council know that the illegal dumping has been done by the strata scheme that it is found on the kerb strip? Some schemes are surrounded by units that do not have suitable kerb space so they just dump junk on their kerb. How would Council distinguish this scenario?”

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“There is no reason for a fine to fall solely on apartment and units, and apart from being unfair to residents it is also highly illogical.”

Mr Barnard says apartment and unit blocks struggle for space as it is, certainly far more than the average house block, and it makes very little sense for densely packed strata communities to be burdened by less space.

“The areas within communities put forward for alternate collection like visitor parking and barbecue areas are important common areas within strata communities, and we don’t want to see these annually be taken out of action.”

“Much fewer numbers of people are inconvenienced by footpath collection than there would be by forcing communities to store unwanted rubbish on-site, so we hope to see common sense prevail.

Mr Barnard says there is absolutely no excuse for people doing the wrong thing when disposing of waste, but he concedes that it won’t be long before owners act out if this highly illogical plan is brought to fruition.

“Making it harder for apartment and unit owners to dispose of their waste will only magnify the problem of illegal dumping.”

“The last thing the Brisbane City Council wants is to allow this unlawful behaviour to grow, and we urge decision makers to urgently review what impact new collection rules will mean for the bigger picture.”

Mr Barnard says instead of targeting apartments and units correctly making use of annual kerbside collections, council should focus on ‘illegal dumping’ on kerbs outside of collection weeks and future planning for the apartment sector.

“Apartment and unit living is the future for Brisbane and as our city grows and density increases we need to find proper solutions to issues like rubbish collection as a community rather than arbitrarily say to apartment buildings ‘well you make more rubbish than the guy next door... you deal with it.’

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