

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

Thursday March 17th, 2016

Attention Editors/Property Editors/Chiefs of Staff

COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN _____ URGED TO SUPPORT APARTMENT AND UNIT OWNERS

\$100 BILLION QUEENSLAND STRATA SECTOR BOSS CALLS FOR COUNCILS TO SUPPORT PROPERTY LAW REVIEW

Apartment, unit and townhouse owners are calling for local authorities to support long overdue property law reforms which are restricting strata sector growth in the _____ region.

Queensland's Local Authority elections are to be held on this Saturday March 19th and the peak body representing the strata sector says local authorities must give priority to strata reforms for the benefit of hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders who own, live in or rent apartments, units and townhouses.

Proposed new laws currently before the State Government will provide strata property owners in _____ with a much needed step forward on how they are able to manage preferences and issues in their community; from things like pets in apartments to decisions on the sale of property.

But successive State Governments have failed to implement them and the strata sector wants pressure applied by local authorities in the _____ region.

Strata Community Australia (Qld) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland and President Simon Barnard says the challenge facing the local strata sector is that modern living demands are not being met by "fired" legislation in the midst of huge growth.

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

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“It's entirely possible that our members, who currently manage \$100 billion worth of property across regions like _____, may see that grow three or four fold by 2030, but that won't happen if reform isn't supported all the way down to the council level.”

Queensland has recently seen a glimpse of the growth referred to by Mr Barnard, with the release of 15,000 lots in 2015 and potentially another 50,000 approved throughout 2016 announced.

Mr Barnard says this growth is a hugely exciting development for professionals within the industry, but without a modern legislative framework in place, it also presents a daunting challenge, hence the support needed from councils.

“Our biggest hope is to slash away some of the unnecessary red tape that will restrict industry growth, with a specific focus on streamlining decision making and communication procedures that unnecessarily cause costs to owners.”

“A strata manager's job is to respond to the needs of their community, across issues like the keeping of pets, maintaining the building's integrity and compliance with the fairly extensive legislation, so it makes sense that they have the ability to focus on this.”

“Instead, the changes to standard service delivery times by Australia Post for example, add to headaches calculating postage times and costs.”

“There is an easy fix available for some of the community living issues property owners are facing and support from candidates will be instrumental in seeing this ongoing action pushed through.”

“We're awaiting advice from the State Government on when such change will be possible, so any and all support from local councils to property owners will strengthen the likelihood of seeing 21st century property laws sooner rather than later.”