

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

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Attention Queensland Media/Property Editors

### **\$100 BILLION STRATA PROPERTY SECTOR WELCOMES PLANS FOR DRONES TO CARRY OUT BUILDING SAFETY CHECKS**

#### **Governments ASKED TO ADDRESS “PEEPING TOMS” CONCERN**

Leaders of Queensland's \$100 billion strata property sector have come out in support of drones being used to inspect high rise residential apartment buildings across \_\_\_\_\_.

**But, they call on the government authorities to lay out a plan to ensure regular drone use doesn't open the door for “peeping Toms” and aerial accidents.**

Drones could mean big savings for the strata communities when checking on window safety and structural integrity storeys above the ground, especially now that over 1.1 million Queenslanders call apartments and units home.

On the flipside, standards must be developed to [ensure privacy requirements are being met and residents are aware of the use of](#) above street level video recording.

Strata Community Australia (Qld) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland, and according to State President Simon Barnard, drones present an efficient and cost-effective solution for inspections and maintenance.

“More than ever we are seeing high rises springing up across the state, and rapidly progressing alongside this property growth is the technology being used to monitor and maintain these high density areas,” Mr Barnard said today.

“If there is a plan forthcoming from the authorities to see privacy and safety maintained along with the buildings themselves, then we welcome the benefits available to strata property owners and very much encourage strata communities to make use of this technology.”

Mr Barnard says the use of drones eliminates the need for expensive scaffolding or safety harnessing, meaning less money spent on contractors and more savings in the pockets of owners.

“There's no doubt in our mind that with the right guidelines behind them, drones will be an asset for strata communities throughout Queensland.”

“They are already being used successfully to provide detailed reports on the issues that concern bodies corporate on a daily basis, ranging from external cracking, storm damage, guttering problems and corrosion.”

But with a roving recording device scrutinising buildings comes a general feeling of concern for privacy and SCA (Qld) is driving the need for strict guidelines to be placed on their use.

“We have seen and heard viral stories of drones being used for some improper purposes and we want the government to recognise that the use of this emerging technology needs to be addressed in law instead of being ignored as a temporary gadget.”

“Beyond privacy concerns however, issues such as height restrictions, when and where they can be used, as well as certification standards for operators should be a priority to ensure regular drone use doesn't lead to serious safety risks.”

As consumer advocates SCA (Qld) have said that they are committed to preserving the best interests of those living in a community scheme, and have urged managers to keep the lines of communication open when addressing concerns about drones.

“Managers will help eliminate uncertainty about the technology as it becomes more available by keeping owners and residents informed about the day to day upkeep of their building.”

SCA (Qld) is confident the drones will be a valuable tool in the next few years and commits to working with the relevant Government authorities to get the guidelines and regulation right.

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