

## Media Release

18 March, 2015

Attention Chief of Staff / Property Editor

# **\$15MILLION SOUGHT TO HELP THE NORTH CYCLONE PROOF STRATA BUILDINGS**

## **GOVERNMENT CALLED ON TO AIDE CYCLONE PROOFING EFFORTS IN NORTH QUEENSLAND STRATA COMMUNITIES**

---

The peak body for the strata industry in Queensland wants a \$15million allocation in this year's State Budget to help take the first steps towards cyclone proofing communities in North Queensland.

Strata Community Australia (Qld) says the funds will not do the whole job because of the size of the cyclone footprint, but will simply start the process of recovery for some schemes.

As thousands of Queenslanders are still picking up the pieces left behind from the continuing cyclone season, SCA(Qld) has called on State and Federal governments to play a part in ensuring cyclone damage is limited moving forward.

For cyclone Marcia alone, it is estimated over 1500 buildings and homes were damaged across the state last month leaving approximately 100 families homeless.

With many of Queensland's strata hot spots in the typical line of fire shared by these tropical lows, Strata Community Australia (Qld) President, Simon Barnard argues that perhaps no group is faced with more damage than the strata industry; with damage to one building immediately affecting dozens of occupiers and owners.

"It's the kind of thing no one likes to see; especially when one incident impacts the lives of so many people at once. Rather than focussing on cleaning up the damage time after time, the State Government should make funds available to start improving the cyclone proofing of strata buildings."

...../2

“Inspection, replacement and maintenance are the big recommendations our members consistently receive. What we’re seeing time and time again however, is that they simply can’t afford or keep up with these steps when the cyclones are coming at nearly monthly intervals over the season.”

“We understand that it is impossible to guarantee a 100% cyclone proof building, but given the stakes at play, we implore the government to tip in \$15million in this year’s budget to get the ball rolling. These funds would be used as grants to the most severely impacted areas.”

“Many smaller schemes where there are only half a dozen owners cannot afford retro-proofing for cyclones. They depend on some assistance or they will be paying over and over again.”

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, on average 4.7 tropical cyclones per year affect the Queensland tropical region.

“ Queensland is still only in the middle of cyclone season so we hope the State and Federal Government take on board what another few months without financial support for cyclone proofing will mean.”

ENDS