

Media Release

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Attention Chief of Staff / Property Editor

STRATA SECTOR WELCOMES STATE GOVERNMENT CONCERN OVER CONCRETE CANCER

PREMIER ASKED TO INTRODUCE MANDATORY INSPECTIONS

A pledge by the State Government to look at options to help “fix” the concrete cancer problem on the Gold Coast has been welcomed by the State’s leading strata body.

But it also wants urgent action and support to determine whether the issue is Queensland wide and not just confined to the Gold Coast.

And, reflecting the seriousness of the issue, it wants the Premier to intervene.

The State Government has confirmed this week that extra regulation is an option on the table to protect against an increase in concrete cancer. State Housing Minister, Leanne Enoch, has pledged to look into the matter.

However, the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland says that for the safety of thousands of owners of Gold Coast strata, regulation needs to be much more than just an idea.

Recent investigations have confirmed what industry leaders have feared for over a year now, with numerous buildings found to be riddled with concrete cancer, or “spalling” as it is known to engineering experts.

The Gold Coast Bulletin has reported that contractors were being forced to paint over eroded concrete to hide damage to some buildings, to avoid another party staring down millions of dollars in repairs.

A recent example of these costs is Focus Apartments who is reportedly facing a damage bill totalling \$2.7 million; after initial damage was found to be worse than originally thought.

In addition to this, contractors are averaging “two or three calls” for concrete cancer related repairs a week as dozens of towers undergo work and it’s getting worse. (Editor Note – See attached article)

Strata Community Australia (Qld) says the sector will be pushing hard to ensure the idea of regulation turns into a reality.

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“New regulations with mandatory inspections are necessary for the safety of the Queensland property sector,” Strata Community Australia (Qld) Senior Vice President James Freestun said today.

“The safety of Australian construction has been highly questionable of late and with Queensland leading the national apartment boom, we urge the State Government to regulate industry standards as soon as possible.”

Strata Community Australia (Qld) has previously called on bodies corporate to undertake building inspections to prevent any damage from going unnoticed before it's too late; but they say more is needed now.

“Inspections are still a hugely important step in building safety, but it's at the point now where property owners are facing multi-million dollar damage bills and desperately need a regulative backbone behind them.”

“Make no mistake, people will shy away from checking the safety of their building because of the financial bearing any findings will have on them.”

“This is a serious issue and we believe the Premier should become involved.”

Mr Freestun says the strata sector hopes that previous collaboration on State property reform will help see leading strata and construction organisations consulted in the creation of any regulative change.

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