

Media Release

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Attention Chief of Staff / Property Editor

PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT URGED TO ACT ON STRATA

NO DELAY AFTER YEARS OF TALKS

The peak industry body for Strata and Community Title Management in Queensland, Strata Community Australia (Qld), has called on the new ALP government to give priority to legislative changes for one of the state's biggest property sectors.

It fears the proposed legislation will be put into the "too hard" basket.

SCA (Qld) says the strata sector has been waiting for years for the changes and has appealed to the new Government to push through the legislation.

The non-profit industry body sought discussions with the then Labor Opposition last year to stress the importance of the proposed legislation, but was unable to meet with then Opposition Leader Palaszczuk prior to the election being called.

"The process we urge the new ALP government to undertake involves the continuation of the property law review that has just closed for public comments," said Strata Community Australia (Qld) President, Simon Barnard,

"As it currently stands, there is a multitude of red tape within legislation governing strata title owned, managed or occupied by our members. What this effectively means is that body corporate management all across the state is limited in efficiently self regulating and applying tailored policies to its own buildings, to suit stakeholder needs."

Mr Barnard said the industry wanted legislation in place so that individual bodies corporate could make their own decisions on a range of issues including smoking areas in public places through to the keeping of pets.

The strata title sector has been growing steadily with a 3% increase in lots within the past 12 months. There are now just under 410,000 strata titled lots in Queensland of which 70 % are managed by SCA (Qld) members.

"We have been working for a period of over two years with the former state government to ensure this process of streamlining was achieved so we are

adamant that the incoming government must continue the push towards this necessary change."

One of the efforts Mr Barnard is referring to is the past engagement of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to conduct an independent review of Queensland's property laws, including the Body Corporate and Community Management Act.

Due to the breadth and complexity of Queensland's property laws the review is to be conducted in stages. The first stage explored legislation around current seller disclosure regimes and lot entitlements. The second stage examines body corporate governance in community titles schemes.

"This review must be continued to ensure that Queensland's strata community moves forward; so we encourage the government to not let this changing of political gears stall the big picture."

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