

Media Release | INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

February, 2019

Attention Queensland Media

'CLOCK IS TICKING' ON _____ APARTMENT BUILDINGS TO address PROBLEM CLADDING BEFORE MARCH 29th DEADLINE

MELBOURNE'S SPENCER STREET CLADDING INFERNO PUTS _____ OWNERS ON THE HOT SEAT

As last week's potentially deadly cladding inferno at Melbourne's Spencer Street lingers in the minds of apartment owners in _____, the peak body for Queensland's \$100 billion strata sector has warned owners the 'clock is ticking' to make their buildings safe and avoid a similar disaster to London's Grenfell tower fire which killed over seventy people.

Strata industry leaders say the fire that tore up the side of a 22 storey Melbourne apartment tower on Monday is a sage reminder that flammable cladding can rear its head anywhere, anytime and _____ owners need to stay on top of cladding audits.

Under the State Government's Safer Buildings initiative, come March 29th, all Queensland buildings will need to have registered their buildings and completed the combustible cladding checklist, and the peak body representing 1.1 million Queenslanders living in strata properties urges bodies corporate to complete the necessary documents.

Emergency services experts including the Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES) have a 'hit-list' of some 10,000 buildings in Queensland, NSW and Victoria where they believe non-compliant cladding is present and it is estimated up to 2,500 may be affected in Queensland.

James Nickless is Vice President of Strata Community Association (Qld) and he's asking all _____ apartment owners with external cladding on buildings built or refurbished after 1994 to complete the online checklist and start mitigating the risks to their building by acting immediately

"With thousands of properties in Queensland suspected to be housing this same material responsible for the Melbourne cladding fire seen earlier this week, there's no time to waste for _____ owners to make their buildings safe."

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“There’s less than 50 days to register your building and ensure its on the way to cladding compliance and we’re encouraging owners state-wide to be as proactive as possible.”

The Safer Buildings program demands that owners;

- Complete an online assessment for tracking of Aluminium Composite Panelling (ACP) by 29th March 2019
- Engage a building industry professional to prepare a statement on whether there is ACP on the building by 29 May 2019
- Engage a fire engineer by 27 August 2019 to assess fire risks

Mr Nickless says owners should be aware that there are significant penalty units enforced for non-compliance but there’s greater motivation at play.

“It shouldn’t take the threat of fines to get owners motivated to start the cladding audit process.”

“Experts have long warned that Australia could face its own deadly Grenfell Tower blaze and the fire in Melbourne last week reinforces that concern.”

“The longer your building ignores the registration and rectification process, the greater the risk of your building being the next in a growing list of flammable cladding incidents in Australia.”

Mr Nickless says the March 29th deadline is just Stage 1 in the Safer Buildings program and encourages owners seeking more information to contact a local body corporate professional to gain further advice on navigating the steps to come.

If schemes believe they will not meet the Stage 1 deadline they are able to apply to the QBCC for an extension before 1st March.

ENDS

About Strata Community Association

Strata Community Association Limited (SCA) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Australia & New Zealand. Membership includes body corporate managers, support staff, committee members and suppliers of products and services to the industry. SCA proudly fulfils the dual roles of a professional institute and consumer advocate.

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SCA has in excess of 3,300 members who help oversee, advise or manage a combined property portfolio with an estimated replacement value of over \$1.2 trillion. Website: <http://stratacommunity.org.au/>

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