

MEDIA RELEASE – INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

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Attention Queensland Media

STATE GOVERNMENT CALLED TO DELIVER NEW PROPERTY LAWS BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2017

1.1 MILLION QUEENSLANDERS LIVING IN APARTMENTS LOOK TO MOVE AWAY FROM NEARLY 20 YEAR OLD LAWS

The lives of 1.1 million Queenslanders who own or live in apartments and units are set for massive change with public consultation and submissions closing this week in relation to the biggest property law shake up in Queensland in over 20 years.

With the closing of submissions this week, the call has been made to the Queensland State Government to deliver legislative change before the end of 2017.

Queenslanders living in strata properties are demanding to see new laws before the year is out, in what will be an overhaul of legislation close to 20 years old.

Over the past 3 months, submissions have been made to the Department of Justice on proposed law reforms and with this public consultation ending this week, the question has been posed – now what?

Property law reforms first started back in 2014, and the peak body overseeing apartment and unit owners say there's no time to waste in delivering modern laws.

Strata Community Australia (Qld) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland and President Simon Barnard says new laws could be set to deliver multi-billion dollar development growth opportunities to regions like _____.

“Make no mistake, the reform of Queensland's strata property laws marks the single biggest jump forward this sector has seen in a generation.”

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“As we have seen in New South Wales, modernised laws with a focus on urban renewal have the ability to inject multi-billion dollar development opportunities where there once wasn't the chance, and we'd like to see Queensland's biggest regions like _____, granted that opportunity.”

Mr Barnard says the new laws proposed, which Queenslanders have had several months to comment on and make submissions to, cover 29 recommendations which will have an immediate and profound impact on the lives of Queensland strata property owners.

“Excessive red tape has plagued the lives of Queenslanders living in apartments and units for some time now, and we're eager to see greater choice granted to these people, who now number in the millions.”

“From issues like the keeping of pets, to smoking on community property, to the ability of owners to sell out of their older buildings as a collective; these are some of the pressing issues that dominate community discussions that if progressed by reform, will immediately change the lives of Queenslanders for the better.”

“Importantly, with consultation now over, the ball is in the State Government's court and we hope to see action taken sooner rather than later.”

Mr Barnard says Strata Community Australia (Qld) has played a close role in consultation with the various State Governments overseeing this reform since 2014, to ensure fair solutions and importantly, greater decision making powers are provided to owners in _____.

“Strata communities make decisions not for one single owner, but a collective community and we hope to see new laws usher in a new era, where communities can swiftly make decisions to benefit their residents.”

“An example of how reforms would immediately address a current problem with state legislation is the ability of owners to sell out of their older, often decaying buildings, due to the need for unanimous approval.”

“Central to the proposed reforms is a key recommendation that individual body corporate entities can make decisions to demolish and rebuild a scheme based on a minimal 75% approval, as opposed to the current resolution without dissent approval process.

“We have observed countless communities up and down the Queensland coast that have struggled for many years to sell out of concrete cancer riddled buildings, even after receiving attractive offers from developers, due to the sale being blocked by 1 sole owner.”

““Some of these buildings face multi-million dollar repair bills and the sensible thing is to redevelop these sites and give the owners some relief from buildings that have been slowly decaying.”

“These situations can significantly hurt owners financially, and it simply doesn't represent making decisions as a 'community' so we're keen to see reforms brought in ASAP that would immediately offer flexibility and relief to owners who still face this.”

Mr Barnard says by November this year, New South Wales will have had a full year with laws that address the modern needs of owners and communities alike, and the time is now for the State Government to bring Queensland up to speed.