

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

July, 2017

LAST CALL FOR 1.1 MILLION QUEENSLANDERS LIVING IN APARTMENTS TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON NEW BODY CORPORATE LAWS

RED TAPE ‘SLASHED’ IN QUEENSLAND’S BIGGEST PROPERTY INDUSTRY SHAKEUP IN 20 YEARS

Queensland is one step away from its biggest property law shake up in 20 years, and apartment owners in _____ are being encouraged to answer the last what may be the last call for public comments.

In what will be the final step in the public consultation round before new laws are drafted and brought into effect, the State Government has tabled 64 changes which would work to change living in a body corporate for the better.

Previous consultations on a dozen law review papers have prompted thousands of responses from Queensland apartment owners on big ticket issues like the keeping of pets, smoking and the ability of owners to sell out of older buildings, but this latest one really cuts to the core of everyday issues costing owner's money.

Body corporate living is more popular than ever, with 1.1 million Queenslanders choosing balconies over backyards, it is hoped that slashing ‘miles of red tape’ will improve the lives of residents in _____.

Strata Community Australia (Qld) is the peak body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland and President Simon Barnard is eager to see owners in _____ put their two cents in.

“This is a can’t miss opportunity for _____ apartment owners to have a say on how they want their communities to be run less costly and more efficiently.”

“One of the biggest bug bears about living in a body corporate we observe is owners feeling like their hands are tied on what they can and can’t do, so we want to see owners in _____ take this opportunity to self-determine how they run their scheme. Make sure the next set of laws really hit the mark.”

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The recommendations in this latest report aim to address common concerns of lot owners, modernise administrative processes, reduce red tape, improve transparency in decision making, facilitate legislative compliance, and increase consumer protection."

Key recommendations of the report:

- The ability to lift the minimum spending thus enabling faster response to much needed repairs;
- Cost reductions by abolishing archaic common seals and enabling owners to opt into email communication instead of costly posting of documentation
- Better protection for community titles by authorising committees to renew insurances when they are due
- Protect owners in highly political schemes by limiting the use of proxies

"Apartment owner's lives are definitely going to be easier under proposals doing away with red tape, helping move strata living into the 21st century after decades of stagnation."

"Electronic voting at AGMs and using email as a way to communicate with owners are just two of the well overdue changes that will mean no more time and money wasted on old-fashioned paper trails, allowing apartment owners to know what's happening in their body corporate in real time."

"You get a sense for how overdue these laws have been when these procedural changes touch on things like switching from paper to electronic communication, so we hope to see owners come out and have their say in support of these updates."

Mr Barnard says public consultation for this final recommendation paper will close on Friday 6 October 2017, and SCA (Qld) wants to see the property law review deliver new laws within quick succession of its completion.

"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 and let us lead again."

"Queensland used to have the most modern and progressive strata laws but there are a whole range of issues specific to modern apartment living that are

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not being met by tired legislation and the sooner an update comes the better for 1.1 million Queenslanders."

Queenslanders can read the recent report about body corporate procedural issues and make a submission by visiting the [Review of Property Law in Queensland](#) page.

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