

## Media Advisory – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Attention Queensland Media

### **STATE GOVERNMENT URGED TO GRANT NEW POWERS TO BUILDING WATCHDOG FOLLOWING FLAMMABLE CLADDING FEARS**

### **'NO REASON TO DOUBT' THAT HUNDREDS OF BUILDINGS IN QUEENSLAND FACE SIMILAR RISKS AS LONDON BUILDING**

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There are serious concerns that the cladding product reportedly responsible for London apartment inferno has been used in the construction of hundreds of Queensland apartment buildings.

And property leaders have warned it is a disaster waiting to happen, unless the State Government acts now.

Over 1.1 million Queenslanders live in apartments and units, and the peak body representing these owners wants to see the Queensland Government urgently granted new powers to the state building watchdog.

They say the building watchdog must have the power to inspect buildings suspected of housing unsafe building materials, and the time to act on this is now.

Victorian building authorities estimate that the number of buildings in their regions suspected to house the unsafe aluminium cladding goes into the hundreds, while in Sydney, that number goes into the thousands. (Editors – see attached article)

Strata Community Australia (Qld) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland and President Simon Barnard says the building watchdog must be empowered, amid what is now a very public and real threat.

“We have no reason to doubt the dangerous flammable cladding which played a fatal role in the London apartment inferno, is built into countless Queensland buildings.”

“Unfortunately Queensland and Australian construction has been plagued by the use of unsafe building materials in recent years, and with our neighbours to the south uncovering shocking amounts of this product, we want to see an empowered building watchdog take the lead on this issue.”

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Queensland's biggest regions have gone through an apartment development boom in recent years, and Mr Barnard says the rush to build residential towers to meet foreign and local demand has seen some crucial steps missed.

"It's no secret that defective building has plagued the construction sector in its most recent period of boom, and the evidence of that is all over Queensland."

"Beyond flammable cladding, asbestos laden fibro sheeting and hazardous electric cabling have presented serious health and safety concerns to local apartment owners and the status quo must change."

"Now more than ever, Queensland apartment owners need to rely on an active and empowered building watchdog and we are eager to work with the State Government on ushering in a new era of compliance for strata property owners to benefit from."

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### **About Strata Community Australia (Qld)**

Strata Community Australia (Qld) Limited (SCA QLD) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland. Membership includes body corporate managers, support staff, committee members and suppliers of products and services to the industry.

SCA (Qld) members manage property worth just under \$100 billion in replacement value. There are more than 45,000 community titles schemes with in excess of 425,000 communities titled lots in Queensland. 43.3% of all new dwelling approvals are expected to be lots in a body corporate scheme. SCA (Qld) proudly fulfils the dual roles of a professional institute and consumer advocate. Website: <http://qld.stratacommunity.org.au/>

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