

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

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Attention Queensland Media

PROPERTY LEADER CALLS FOR BODY CORPORATES TO TAKE 'ZERO TOLERANCE' APPROACH TO BAD BALCONY BEHAVIOUR AT SCHOOLIES

POLICE URGED TO SUPPORT STRATA COMPLEXES BY CRACKING DOWN ON PROPERTY DAMAGE IN _____

Schoolies beware, if you throw something off a balcony this year, you could be throwing away your entire week of celebrations.

With tens of thousands of Queensland Schoolies set to flock to destinations across the _____ coast next week for end of year celebrations, a call has been issued for bodies corporate to take a zero-tolerance approach to bad balcony behaviour.

It follows a 2017 Schoolies Risk Assessment released earlier this year, which reported that the biggest fears are for visitor or staff safety, due to objects being thrown from balconies. (Editors – see attached)

The peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland, is adamant that adequate security measures should be taken over the Schoolies week to prevent these deliberate acts causing safety risks and breaching unit by-laws.

“Schoolies has always presented some challenges to bodies corporate in _____ but most concerning in recent years has been the misuse of apartment balconies that could seriously injure guests or worse,” President of Strata Community Association (Qld), Simon Barnard said today.

“And because of those risks, we’re encouraging bodies corporate to adopt a zero-tolerance policy for bad balcony behaviour and ensure guests properly understand what behaviour breaches community by-laws.”

Mr Barnard says the Queensland Government has released guidelines on safe balcony use for Schoolies, and is reminding students that they could be evicted from their accommodation or arrested by the police for irresponsible behaviour.

“Some of the prohibited behaviours listed includes sitting on, leaning over, climbing or hanging off the side of balconies, as well as hopping from balcony to balcony and throwing objects.”

“Every year Schoolies are given a full security briefing on arrival at their accommodation as to acceptable and unacceptable behaviours, and combined with these publicly available guidelines, there's now no excuse to be caught doing the wrong thing.”

Mr Barnard is also encouraging Police to take extra steps this year, and support strata complexes by cracking down on instances of property damage, after apartments and units were trashed in last year's raucous celebrations.

“A push from local owners to see Schoolies scrapped on the Gold Coast this year shows just how much an impact property damage is having on residential communities.”

“In one such instance, more than 60 students smashed a unit wall and furniture, leaving a \$40,000 repair bill in one apartment, and the steps taken by Police to question teens over that incident is what we want to see echoed across all of these matters.”

“With such a large number of young people being crowded into the Schoolies hot spots, it's important that police are there to support the residential communities involved and ensure that any damage or disturbance to those communities is minimised.”

Mr Barnard says bodies corporate seeking advice on how to best manage security on the enforcement of by-laws over the Schoolies period should engage a professional body corporate management, to ensure they are prepared.

ENDS

About Strata Community Association (Qld)

Strata Community Association (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/>

Media Contact:

Simon Barnard
President
Strata Community Association (Qld)



SCA (Qld) President Simon Barnard