

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

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Attention Queensland Media

PALASZCZUK & NICHOLLS URGED TO MAKE FUTURE OF PROPERTY REFORM CRYSTAL CLEAR FOR 1.1 MILLION QUEENSLANDERS

“NEW LAWS WITHIN 100 DAYS OF PARLIAMENT’S RESUMPTION”

Queensland’s major party leaders are being called on to clarify when 1.1 million Queensland residents living in apartments and units will see new property laws.

Legislation governing Queensland’s \$110 billion strata sector is nearly two decades old, and the peak body representing this sector wants to see the next State Government introduce new laws within 100 days following the election.

They say owners have waited long enough, since the start of the property law review back in 2014 and want the Premier and Opposition Leader to put a firm date on the introduction of laws, before Queenslanders visit the polling booths.

Issues like the keeping of pets, smoking on apartment balconies, and the ability of owners to sell out of ageing buildings are some of the big ticket items on which Strata Community Association (Qld) wants to see action and President Simon Barnard says the modernisation of Queensland property laws must be a priority for the next Government.

“The next Queensland State Government has an opportunity to change the everyday lives of 1.1 million residents living in strata properties for the better, and we want to hear from party leaders on the future of property law reform ASAP.”

“Issues that weren’t of concern 20 years ago, like short stays, energy efficiency and smoking on private property are some of the most prominent that strata communities now face, and its time that they were governed by legislation that responds to them, or more importantly, allows them to decide how to respond to them.”

Mr Barnard says living in an apartment block means everyone having a say, so new laws must allow individual communities to self-regulate and make decisions to best suit their 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 self-regulation introduced so that communities can tailor by-laws according to their own residents’ preferences.”

“There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to issues like the keeping of pets and use of short term letting services in strata communities, so we’re eager to see new laws deliver the power to individual schemes to make the right choice for their owners.”

With the State election right around the corner Strata Community Association (Qld) has put forward 4 Election Priorities to modernise strata laws in a bid to improve the management of 465,000 lots across the State.

“Our 2017 Priorities reflect the growing shift towards a consumer-driven strata management. Nowadays many more tenants and owners want to have their voice heard and influence decisions made by their strata management committees.”

“Government cooperation on these action items will be vital to help deal with the growing number of strata communities and the increasing demands of an expanding population.”

The SCA's priorities cover four key concerns faced by the Queensland strata sector:

1. Self-governing strata communities
2. Modernising archaic administrative processes
3. Strengthening consumer protection
4. Tighten strata manager qualification framework

By releasing their 2017 Election Priorities, Mr Barnard hopes that the progress of the property law review is kept firmly on the Government's radar as an action item when voters decide on their new leader.

“There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the local political climate, however, law reforms guided by our Election Priorities must not be slowed down by the political changes we’ll see through the election.”

“Our recommendations to the key government decision makers offer the opportunity for an array of new powers for property owners, and with the election on the horizon we must ensure that the much-needed updates to Queensland legislation aren’t sidelined,” Mr Barnard said.

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/>

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