

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

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Attention Queensland Media

'ROOF TOPPING' SCARE AS YOUNG DARE-DEVILS PUSH THE LIMITS ON QUEENSLAND APARTMENT BLOCKS

PROPERTY LEADER CALLS FOR POLICE CRACKDOWN ON ROOFTOP STUNTS IN TIME FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Early signs are emerging that the Commonwealth Games is set to attract a "flood of idiots" who want to use Gold Coast high rise residential towers to show off on social media.

Gold Coast apartment towers have once again become the target of the global trend of roof topping, and a national property leader is calling for tough measures from Police to protect owners from an avalanche of risk-takers breaking into residential communities.

With the Commonwealth Games approaching they say something must be done before thrill seekers and reckless law breakers decide they want a slice of the headlines the international event will attract.

Roof toppers recently interviewed by Channel 9 News claim that capturing their antics from city rooftops is an extreme art that gets higher engagement on social media.

However the dangerous stunts of these youngsters have received no 'likes' from the national peak body for Strata Title Management, Strata Community Association (Qld), who has expressed concern that the trend could have life-threatening consequences.

President of SCA (Qld) Simon Barnard is adamant that the behaviour of those found breaking through boundaries and accessing high-rise apartment roofs must be curbed before the latest craze gets out of hand.

"Essentially, people are breaking into residential towers, accessing rooftops and performing dangerous stunts that risk their safety for attention online."

"Besides the law breaking that occurs in some of these incidences, unauthorised access to apartment rooftops could put lives at risk and

threaten the safety and security of residents," President of SCA (Qld) Simon Barnard said today.

With the upcoming Commonwealth Games drawing worldwide attention to the Gold Coast, SCA (Qld) is urging that police presence is heightened at the event to prevent a flood of dare-devils taking to the city's rooftops in search of headlines.

"Roof toppers around the world are trying to out-do each other by sharing adventurous footage of themselves on high-rise buildings, and the Commonwealth games could see an influx of people trying to capture Gold Coast views from above."

"This is dangerous and unacceptable behaviour, and State officials must ensure that there is a concerted focus on rooftop behaviour throughout the build-up to the Commonwealth Games and the Games themselves, with added security from police."

"Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent these stunts causing safety risks, property damage, or other breaching of laws."

"With such a large number of people about to hit Queensland, it's important that police are there to support the local residential communities and ensure that any damage or disturbance to those communities is minimised."

Mr Barnard is also encouraging strata owners, management and committees to check that their building rooftops are secure ahead of major events like the games and ensure guests properly understand what behaviour breaches community by-laws.

"Strata communities should be proactive in improving their building and roof security to prevent risk-takers accessing their rooftops for reckless stunts."

The impact an accident may have on the body corporate's insurance liability is also of significant concern.

"Strata insurance premiums already place a financial burden on many unit owners, and if a tragic accident were to take place, some body corporates may face crippling costs and need to re-consider their level of coverage," Mr Barnard said.

"I urge all strata schemes to check their coverage for public liability and be aware of the terms and conditions of their policies."

“Apartment owners needing advice on how to best manage security over the Commonwealth Games period, or on public liability insurance should engage professional strata management, to ensure they are prepared.”

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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/>



SCA (Qld) President Simon Barnard

