

## Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

Sunday February 18, 2018

Attention Queensland Media

### **NEW STATE GOVERNMENT MUST PUT 1.1 MILLION QUEENSLANDERS LIVING IN APARTMENTS FIRST – “NO MORE CARROT DANGLING”**

#### **“NEW LAWS WITHIN 100 DAYS” - PEAK ORGANISATIONS CALL FOR ACTION PEAK ORGANISATIONS CALL FOR ACTION**

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Queensland’s peak property organisations and the Queensland Law Society have called on the new State Government to progress major reform to the property sector in Queensland.

State leaders of Strata Community Association, the Property Council, and the Real Estate Institute of Queensland have united to call for the introduction of new property laws within 100 days.

They say owners have waited long enough with the promise of new laws dangled like a carrot in front of them, and urge State lawmakers to commit to a 100 day deadline to see the laws passed.

Proposed legislation governing Queensland’s \$110 billion strata sector is nearly two decades old, and industry leaders say issues like the keeping of pets, smoking on apartment balconies, and the ability of owners to sell out of ageing buildings are those which require modern laws to address their impact.

“It comes as no surprise to anyone that laws that are close to 20 years old are struggling to keep up with modern living and the Government must put property law reform at the top of their agenda.” industry leaders said today.

“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 Queenslanders 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.”

“This new State Government has an opportunity to change the everyday lives of 1.1 million Queenslanders living in strata properties for the better, and we want to hear from the big brass as to their timeline for introducing new laws.”

This is the first time the peak organizations have joined in a united movement and the message couldn't clearer; introduce laws within 100 days of Parliament.

Strata Community Association (Qld) has played lead consultant to the Government's property law review since 2014 and President Simon Barnard says 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 the 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.”

“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.”

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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 467,000 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*

