

Media Release – **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

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Attention Queensland Media

GOLD COAST AIRBNB HOSTS WARNED AGAINST LAX RULES FOR GUESTS BEFORE COMMONWEALTH GAMES RUSH

STORIES OF HOSTS SPRUICKING RELAXED SMOKING, DRINKING, PARTYING RULES WORRIES PEAK BODY CORPORATE BODY

There is real concern that hundreds of AIRBNB “Party Houses” are about to spring up during the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Ahead of one of the Gold Coast's biggest tourist events in history, Airbnb hosts are being warned against throwing away the rule book, and advertising ‘lax’ apartment by-laws giving the green light to smoking, drinking and partying.

An industry leader says the trend of hosts spruicking ‘rubbish rules’ to get more hits on short stay sites should be of great concern to their apartment neighbours and has warned owner occupiers on the Gold Coast of following suit ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

Apartment buildings make up a huge portion of the Gold Coast's short stay market and the call has gone out for bodies corporate to issue strong warnings to owners listing properties during the Games.

Strata Community Association (Qld) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Queensland and President Simon Barnard says owners must communicate the by-laws of their buildings to guests, or risk their properties being turned into ‘party apartments’.

“There's a real risk that this trend of advertising ‘lax’ rules will cause Gold Coast apartment buildings to become home to damaging and reckless partying come the Commonwealth Games.”

“Thanks to Schoolies and the Gold Coast 600, Gold Coast apartment owners know full well the level of disruption and damage that may be caused to properties when rules are flouted by guests, and we're concerned this trend sets the scene for exactly that.”

“But we can avoid this regrettable outcome if bodies corporate are proactive and reiterate to owners that all short stay guests must receive the community by-laws prior to their stay or upon arrival.”

Mr Barnard also warns owners not to fall foul of Gold Coast City Council laws regarding Party Houses and urged any owners renting their properties outside the designated Party House area to follow the same regulations they do for the rest of the year.

“The Commonwealth Games do not provide a special license to flout local laws, and I’m sure the Gold Coast City Council will be out and about enforcing the rules and regulations for the safety and comfort of residents and visitors alike.”

“The Council are very aware that short stay sites aren't going anywhere, so instead of fighting the movement, Gold Coast bodies corporate would be better off spending their time reviewing lot usage.”

“Short stays are still very new to bodies corporate and a real investment for them will be employing a professional body corporate service to get advice on managing their use by owners.”

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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

