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Apartment strata laws in Cairns set to change in near future

CAIRNS

Apartment strata laws in Cairns set to change in near future

Alicia Nally, The Cairns Post

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CAIRNS residents living in apartments are set to benefit from changes to property laws still being debated in Queensland parliament.

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Barnard said.

“At the moment there are significant costs placed on a body corporate from having to mail out meeting notices.

“Changes will hopefully allow for those to be sent electronically.

“Airbnb is still up in the air. Effectively they’ve said a body corporate could ban it but currently there are by-laws operating saying you can’t restrict Airbnb. But there have been two court cases which have suggested otherwise.”

Smoking is also a contentious issues with the activity banned in common areas currently.

But Mr Barnard said there was a strong desire to “let owners live how they would in their own homes”.

He said Cairns unit owners and strata representatives have also kept up the debate over high insurance prices for the flood and cyclone-prone region.

“Certainly we will continue to lobby for a fair insurance market in the state,” Mr Barnard said.

“Insurance costs are four times what they are in Victoria and other parts of Queensland. We just want a fair go and the only way to get it is to get more competition in the market.”

The rising number of apartment dwellers into the future will also be discussed.

ON THE AGENDA

Greater self-regulation is tipped to be the outcome of the new laws which will allow communities to tailor by-laws according to residents’ preferences.

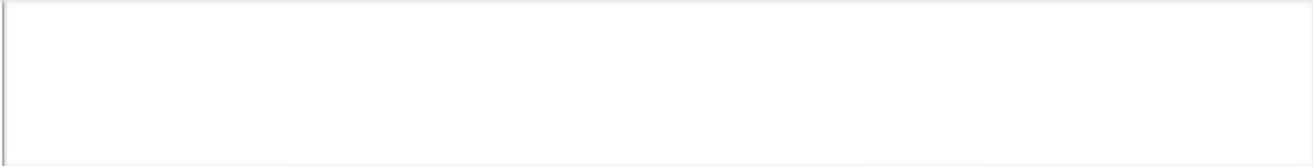
Rules on keeping pets, use of properties for short-term letting services like AirBnB and smoking should become more relaxed under the changes.

In mid-February the state leaders of Strata Community Association, the Property Council, and Real Estate Institute of Queensland called on the State Government to finalise the new laws within 100 days.

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I hope they looked into how the local council rips off unit owners with excessive council rates charges.

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