**Media Release**

**Strata peak body calls for Urgent Resourcing Increase of Commissioners Office**

Friday, 27 August 2021:

SCA (Qld) noted last week a change of policy from the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management this week. Due to an ongoing lack of resourcing, the Office has announced they will no longer be approving extensions of time for Annual General Meetings. Efficiency reforms like this one are mostly positive for the industry, however the lack of communication is an indicator of the increased demand currently facing the office.

SCA (Qld) considers the Commissioner’s office has been forced to forego this service because of a lack of resources within their department. More than 80,000 strata title lots have been built over the past 6 years, there has been no additional staff added.

This change has been released on body corporate managers and the wider body corporate industry without any discussion.

The lack of resourcing is an issue facing 1.2 million Queenslanders living in strata, and a major change to services like this should require industry involvement.

“The lack of growth in resourcing in the Commissioner’s Office in line with growth of the industry means a change like this was the only option. The Commissioner’s Office is a valuable resource for those living and working in strata and it is disappointing to see this change made due to the extenuating circumstances, “said SCA (Qld) President James Nickless.

“Whilst this change will give greater autonomy to body corporate managers and SCA (Qld) supports similar efficiency, the rushed fashion in which it was done indicates just how dire the need for a resource injection is needed at the Office of the Commissioner.”

“We are calling for urgent action, including efficiency reforms like allowing people to be declared vexatious, an expansion of costs orders, and potentially raising the costs of bringing an application.”

“If the Government is unwilling or unable to inject extra resources into the Office of the Commissioner, reducing the load through sensible changes to operations must be considered to clear the backlog.”

SCA (Qld) is urgently calling on the Queensland Government to increase funding and resources to the office to allow for greater service offerings for the body corporate industry. The Commissioner’s Office is a huge part of the industry and relied on by many for their essential services, and their importance must be recognised and the Office must be properly resourced.

**ENDS**

**About Strata Community Association (Qld)**

SCA (Qld) is the peak association supporting the state's strata sector, with more than 1,300 individual and corporate members who help oversee, advise, and manage a collective sinking fund balance of $1.02 billion.

The association brings together people who manage strata schemes, own units or live in strata communities, and those who provide products and services for schemes. We also provide education, advice, and advocacy to enable better understanding of the regulations, obligations and owner's rights.

Strata Community Association (Qld) members represent 323,000 of the 500,000 lots in Queensland.  SCA (Qld) was founded in 1984 as the Body Corporate Manager’s Institute Queensland (BCMIQ), subsequently joining the other leading state and territory strata institutes in creating a national organisation. Aligning branding since 2002 we now are known as Strata Community Association (Qld).

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