**Media Release**

**SCA (Qld) Sees Big Year Ahead for Strata**

Friday, August 20, 2021:

SCA (Qld) was pleased to see last week at Queensland Budget Estimates a commitment to and interest in strata issues from multiple parties. Whilst the process of reform remains ongoing the focus on strata is a welcome development.

One in four Queenslanders live in strata titled properties and the proportion of people living in strata schemes is increasing year-on-year as more people choose to live in apartments, townhouses and similar properties.

“Resourcing of and reform to the Body Corporate and Community Management Commissioners Office is a critical priority and one that cannot be ignored any longer,” said SCA (Qld) President James Nickless.

“We were pleased to see this issue raised in estimates, while we commend the work done by the Commissioner and the employees of that office, resourcing has been outstripped by the growth of schemes.”

“More than 80,000 new strata title lots have been constructed over the past 6 years, with no increase in staff, no implementation of efficiency reforms and no mechanisms to expedite frivolous or vexatious claims. This is simply not fair on the staff or lot owners.”

“Urgent reform and a boost in resources is needed to clear the backlog of disputes, Queensland strata owners deserve to have their disputes quickly resolved- it is untenable to have disputes drag on for months. Queenslanders deserve to feel relaxed and comfortable in their own homes.”

Despite the lack of resources in the Commissioner’s Office being an issue, SCA (Qld) was pleased to see the Attorney General committing to reform of the Queensland Body Corporate Law.

“Whilst the process of reform has been long and the Act requires modernization relatively quickly, we are pleased to see the Attorney General talking about reform,” said Mr Nickless.

“Strata is growing exponentially and important matters like community autonomy, seller disclosure and licensing for strata managers deserve consideration sooner rather than later.”

“We are pleased the Attorney is ambitious about reform and seeking to introduce changes to the regulatory framework as early as next year. Reform is desperately needed. We look forward to working with the Attorney and her Department to ensure that reform comes to Queensland sooner rather than later.”

**Ends**

**About Strata Community Association (Qld)**

SCA (Qld) is the peak association supporting the state's strata sector, with more than 1,200 individual and corporate members who help oversee, advise, and manage hundreds of thousands of lots across Queensland. 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

**Media inquiries: Contact SCA Queensland Policy Officer Kristian Marlow on 0437176366**