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Strata Peak Body says Couran Cove Shows Property Law Reform Matters

Peak property body Strata Community Association Qld (“SCA(Qld)”) has said this week’s crisis at Couran Cove show the urgent need for reforms to restore equity for lot owners in body corporate schemes across the State.

SCA (Qld) General Manager Laura Bos said that reform to the special act which governs Couran Cove was afoot, but reforms to more than 50,000 other bodies corporate around the state was urgent.

“ I am incredibly distressed by reports of elderly residents having their power cut off at Couran Cove. I hope they are able to remain safe and cared for and these issues are resolved quickly and fairly,” said Ms Bos.

“ I want to start by saying how pleased I am the Attorney-General has a bill which will pass Parliament next month to fix a huge amount of the issues going on at Couran Cove. It is however important to note that Couran Cove is regulated by old legislation known as the BUGTA which only affects about 580 schemes across Queensland.”

Ms Bos said wider action was needed and SCA (Qld) had lot owners back in this regard.

“ There are 50,000 more schemes that need urgent protections for their lot owners against service contracts imposed upon them with little or no recourse,” said Ms Bos.

“ With cost of living pressures being extremely acute across the economy, the time has come to provide empowerment to lot owners and help them relieve themselves of burdensome and inescapable contracts signed by developers. This can happen in things like waste provision or caretaking, which is perhaps the single biggest issue facing the strata sector.”

“ Modern, appropriately sourced and competitive contract terms will help bring the costs of service provision for our most vulnerable apartment dwellers down. “

“ It will also help make apartment living more attractive and help alleviate the significant housing crisis Queensland is facing.”

“ Queenslanders need confidence in being able to live and raise a family in an apartment and a huge part of that is giving them confidence that their service delivery is fairly priced and reliable.”

Ends.

Media inquiries:

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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.