

Media Release

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Peak Strata Body Asks for Urgent Action on Northern Insurance

Peak property body Strata Community Association (Qld) (SCA (Qld)) has today expressed significant disappointment in the news that the savings from the Northern Australian Reinsurance will not hit consumer insurance policies until potentially as late as the end of the year. SCA (Qld) President Kristi Kinast has urged all tiers of Government to work as quickly as possible to give urgent cost of living relief to North Queensland strata owners.

Ms Kinast read with dismay in recent days that relief won't be available to policy holders on July 1 and may take as long as a further six months.

"At a time when cost of living is spiraling out of control, I am tremendously saddened to see that the relief promised by this program will not be available as soon as we believed," said Ms Kinast.

"Strata owners hit by endless premium rises well above inflation had an end in sight to this cost of living pain, now they are hit by the double whammy of this delay and high levels of central price inflation on other items."

"Insurance is a compulsory expense for strata owners and they will now be forced to pay higher premiums for up to six months- coupled with the current inflation crisis this could send some people to the wall."

Ms Kinast said she would work with new Minister, Assistant Treasurer the Hon. Stephen Jones as needed to deliver this important program. She also believes there is scope for the State Government to provide temporary relief through taxation changes.

"With Labor in power at both the state and federal level now, I hope cooperation can become the name of the game in solving this ongoing crisis. We are happy to support progress in any way and I hope Stephen Jones can work diligently to ensure this program is delivered as soon as possible," said Ms Kinast.

"I hope the change in Federal Government can end the finger pointing; in the absence of this program I ask State Treasurer Cameron Dick to immediately move to rebate the next six months of stamp duty payable by strata owners North of Rockhampton."

"Given strata owners are obliged by law to insure, they are now going to be obliged to pay higher taxes than they could have possibly budgeted for and we urge the state government to provide some equity and give them appropriate relief."

"Whilst we would ultimately like to see stamp duty abolished on strata premiums permanently, some temporary relief given this unfortunate news is the minimum needed to deliver equity and we sincerely hope the State Government makes this an urgent priority."

Ms Kinast said all three tiers of Government had a role to play and believes the problems in Northern Queensland can only be solved by collaboration and cooperation.

“I urge councils, the state and federal governments to work together on tax changes and mitigation funding for strata to help ensure that North Queensland remains a vibrant and affordable place to live, work and raise a family.”

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.