

## MEDIA RELEASE

### CLADDING AN ELECTION ISSUE AS DEADLINE LOOMS

**20 August, 2020:** The Queensland election on 31 October will be held exactly one year after the deadline lapsed to register more than 19,000 buildings flagged as potentially containing unsafe cladding.

To date, almost 17,000 buildings have been cleared of cladding concerns, but for the approximately 2,700 buildings that have not yet been cleared, another deadline looms on 3 May 2021.

By that date, all buildings registered to the Safer Buildings scheme must have had their building assessed by a fire engineer and be able to provide a Building Fire Safety Risk Assessment and a Form 35 Fire Engineer's Statement Part 3b of the scheme.

"Cladding has been such a big issue for strata communities and so many buildings have been cleared over the past few years that now is not the time to get complacent," said SCA (Qld) President James Nickless.

"At the last deadline, communities faced fines and we achieved an extension to the tight deadlines – this would be hard to achieve for this last deadline which has been known for two years.

"We recommend that bodies corporate take action now and get on with the building assessment by a fire engineer to make sure you can produce a Building Fire Safety Risk Assessment.

Cladding and defects are a critical part of the seven election priorities SCA (Qld) released last month.

"Combustible cladding has had an incredibly negative financial impact on people who live in strata titled properties and as in so many cases it has been the consumer who has had to foot the bill for poor construction product choices. It is important to understand that cladding is just the tip of the iceberg for building defects in strata titled properties," said Mr Nickless.

"Ahead of the 2020 election, we are calling on all political parties to commit to protecting consumers from defects by broadening the Statutory Warranty Scheme to include high-rises and for providing options for consumers to have a recourse outside of the court room. Queensland property owners deserve some level of confidence in the quality of their substantial investment. There should also be a statutory duty of care owed by builders and developers to unit owners to prevent building defects, like the one recently introduced in New South Wales."

"This measure will give consumers protections in the same way as when they purchase a vehicle or some household-goods; a minimum level of protection that every apartment or townhouse owner should be entitled to," he said.

Read the full SCA (Qld) [2020 Election Priorities](#).

For more information, visit the [Safer Buildings](#) – Part 3 page on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) website.

**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 a collective sinking fund balance of \$1.1 billion. The insurance value of the 500,000 lots in Queensland exceeds \$150billion.

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 (Qld) Executive Officer Katrin Watson on 07 3839 3011.**