

## QUEENSLAND CYCLONE SEASON AND UNDERINSURANCE: A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN

**Wednesday 7 October 2020:** Thousands of Queenslanders will head into next month's cyclone season with their homes either uninsured or under insured and with a new forecast La Nina weather period bringing an increased risk of more cyclones and flooding.

In North Queensland where insurance premiums have risen by 300% in the last few years, the problem has been made worse by insurance companies withdrawing from the market and refusing to take on the risk, due to past cyclone damage.

Queensland's peak strata body representing the interests of hundreds of thousands of unit, townhouse and apartment owners says this year's cyclone season in Queensland is a disaster waiting to happen. It wants an urgent meeting with the Premier to discuss the issue.

Strata Community Association (Qld) says this year's cyclone season is set to cause havoc throughout the State because of the insurance crisis.

SCA (Qld) came out today and strongly supported a push by Katter's Australian Party to seek support from the State and Federal Governments for a New Zealand style earthquake fund to help address the insurance crisis in North Queensland.

"This cyclone season that kicks in within the next two months is a disaster waiting to happen and we are very concerned about the threat to lives and property of thousands of Queenslanders, especially those in the North," SCA (Qld) President, James Nickless, said today.

"We want to meet with the Premier urgently in North Queensland to see what can be done."

Mr Nickless said SCA (Qld) had been trying to meet with the Premier for over a month, with no success.

"We believe tens of thousands of Queensland homes are either uninsured or under insured as we head into what is forecast to be a very bad La Nina driven cyclone season in Queensland.

"We want this issue front and centre of the State election campaign and we have engaged with the political parties to draw urgent attention to this issue.

"Robbie Katter and Katter's Australian Party have [grabbed this issue by the horns](#) and are working with us to find solutions and we hope the other major political parties will do the same."

Mr Nickless said SCA (Qld) supported a New Zealand style earthquake levy and a reduction in stamp duty charges to make insurance more affordable for those living in far north Queensland.

“The problem is worse in North Queensland because of the 300% hike in premium costs and because insurance companies are pulling out of the market. Some of the buildings up there cannot get insurance at any price.

“In addition, more and more people are cutting back on insurance costs as the COVID19 led recession bites hard.”

“If the cyclone season this year is as bad as is forecast, the major political parties are guilty of standing by and doing nothing if they do not get behind the Katter Australian Party push for a New Zealand style earthquake fund in North Queensland.”

## **ENDS**

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

### **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 \$1.02 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 312,000 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).

**Media inquiries: Contact SCA (Qld) Executive Officer Katrin Watson on 07 3839 3011.**