

Media Release | **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

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Attention New South Wales Media

AS CORONAVIRUS SPREADS PEAK STRATA BODY URGES INDUSTRY TO CONTINUE OPERATING AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE

MILLIONS OF RESIDENTS IN STRATA TITLED PROPERTIES NEED THE ONGOING SUPPORT OF THEIR STRATA MANAGERS AND COMPANIES

The multibillion-dollar strata sector in New South Wales today issued a rallying call to its members and hundreds of thousands of stakeholders to work together to mitigate the effects of Covid-19.

And it wants strata managers to take a lead role and to make sure they keep themselves fully informed and self educated on how to safeguard strata residential communities against the virus spreading.

As Covid-19 continues its spread across New South Wales, Australia and the globe, many businesses have made the decision to advise employees to work from home where able, relying on remote access and a less hands-on approach to fulfil their duties.

Whilst public health remains an absolute priority, owners and residents of strata titled properties are getting anxious about the ramifications of potential lockdowns, operational cuts and the increased infection chances in high population density living.

The peak body representing the multibillion-dollar New South Wales apartment, unit, townhouse and Strata sector says that it is vital that the Strata Industry continues operating as effectively as possible to support the millions of residents who reside in strata titled properties.

Strata Community Association (NSW), says strata and building managers, along with cleaners are at the forefront in limiting and containing the spread of the virus. All these service providers will play a key role in protecting the residents in strata communities and assisting people who have contracted the virus or are in self-isolation.

Strata Community Association (New South Wales)

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As more people will work from home, there is a greater strain on all building infrastructure, waste and recycling management and facility teams need to be prepared for this increased workload.

There are thousands of apartment complexes in NSW where continued operation and resident support and protection is needed because of the heavy use of common areas and resident interaction in high density living. Any reduction in operation now will have a snowballing effect for all residents and owners alike.

SCA (NSW) State President, Chris Duggan says the strata ecosystem is more critical now than ever and the commerce of strata must continue to protect the safety of our residents.

"In communities where the virus hits, it is deepening the consequences of operational cutbacks, pushing many of the burdens onto building managers and strata companies with reduced staff or minimal resources.

"This is not a time to step back, it's a time to step up for our communities and members, and we're doing everything we can to ensure strata titled complexes are continuing to run business as normal.

"We're viewing this as a whole of supply chain responsibility to keep residents safe, while we continue to safely service schemes, and ensure a health focused environment for owners if they're forced to isolate or are in lockdown and need support," Mr Duggan said.

SCA (NSW), are currently calling on the Government to relax some regulations around strata schemes to ensure they don't face non-compliance breaches for AGMs and extraordinary meetings.

The Government's proxy limitation is also making it difficult for all owners to have their say in the decision-making process of schemes.

Mr Duggan said strata schemes should try to accommodate owners who may have financial difficulties without compromising liquidity.

"We're already seeing a vulnerability for owners around their financial exposure and we need to balance the compassion and awareness for the devastating economic impact Covid-19 is posing on owners and residents."

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About Strata Community Association (NSW)

Strata Community Association (NSW) is the peak industry body for Strata and Community Title Management in New South Wales. Membership includes strata managers, support staff, committee members and suppliers of products and services to the industry. SCA (NSW) has in excess of 3,000 members who help oversee, advise or manage a combined property portfolio with an estimated replacement value of over \$400 Billion. SCA (NSW) proudly fulfils the dual roles of a professional institute and consumer advocate.

Website: <https://nsw.strata.community/>

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