

Media Release | INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

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Attention New South Wales Media

PEAK NSW STRATA BODY URGES STATE TO REMAIN ON HIGH COVID ALERT TO PREVENT REPEAT OF MELBOURNE APARTMENT DISASTER

COMPLACENCY RISK INCREASES

Signs are emerging that the two million apartment, unit and townhouse residents in New South Wales are starting to get complacent about a second wave of COVID19 infections in the State.

The multibillion-dollar strata sector in New South Wales is urging the State's two million strata property residents to stay on high alert to avoid a repeat of a second wave of COVID-19 which has inflicted public housing high rise apartment blocks in Victoria.

It says high density living in apartment blocks in NSW poses a potentially enormous threat of a second wave of COVID-19. The fear stems from strata communities having to struggle with social distancing rules, due to the proximity and density in which they reside, and common facilities they're required to share, increasing the risk of transmission.

Strata Community Association (NSW) has warned outbreaks are feared due to the high number of residents who are itching to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions gradually being lifted. As of Thursday, this week, 11 of the 13 new cases across the state were returned travellers.

SCA (NSW) State President, Chris Duggan, says now is not a time for complacency, and the good work residents have put in during lockdown restrictions should not be tarnished with any COVID-19 outbreaks.

"As an industry, strata have adapted and adopted extraordinarily well to mitigate and stymie the transmission of COVID-19. Strata have gone above and beyond in their response to the outbreak, and we need to ensure our efforts have not been in vain.

"We're in a 'perfect-storm' of risk which has the potential to impact the lives of tens of thousands of people in NSW. On one end of the spectrum, we have members of

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strata communities travelling to newly opened states and embracing relaxed lockdown restrictions; and on the other, we have more people than ever before locked away in their apartments, units and townhouses.

"I hope that what has happened in Victoria sends a clear message to people in NSW living in strata property to stay vigilant and alert in relation to social distancing.

"However, we are seeing the first signs of complacency.

"We're urging all residents to heed Public Health Order recommendations and if they do not, they should suffer consequences and any fines that will follow.

"While we strongly support the actions of the NSW Government in the manner in which they have handle the COVID-19 crisis, we don't want people thinking now is the time to lower their guards.

"The last thing we want to see is another wave of outbreaks forcing people back into lockdown," Mr Duggan said.

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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.

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