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PEAK STRATA BODY SUPPORTS ACT GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON BUILDERS AND PRIVATE CERTIFIERS

PUSHES TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO BE CONSULTED ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS AFFECTING 50,000 AUSTRALIANS

Strata bosses representing the interests of tens of thousands of ACT residents who live in apartments, units, townhouses and other strata titled property are calling on the ACT Government to consult widely with industry groups on proposed tougher regulations for builders and private certifiers.

Strata Community Association has commended the ACT Government's tough stance on builders and private certifiers after it announced a crackdown on those responsible for substandard building quality in the country's capital.

It wants to avoid the widespread current construction nightmare like recently in New South Wales.

However, the peak body, which advocates for an estimated 3million Australians who live in strata nationally, is concerned legislation passed without industry consultation may fall short in safeguarding consumer protections.

SCA CEO Alisha Fisher says, "While we're highly supportive of tougher regulations on builders and private certifiers to prevent poor building quality from financially crippling those who live in strata, we're asking the ACT Government to consult us and other industry bodies before enacting legislation.

"According to population figures, around 50,000 people live in strata titled property in the ACT and it's critical their interests are represented when decisions are made to regulate the sector. We're asking the ACT Government to give us a seat at the table."

Last week, ACT Building Minister Gordon Ramsay announced the ACT Government was planning new legislation that would make directors of licensed corporations personally liable for defects, which is a billion-dollar issue nationally.

In an effort to tackle the problem of phoenixing, the ACT Government has also proposed an option that would allow orders to be issued to people close to a building company that has been dissolved; holding those individuals to account, rather than leaving the cost of rectification to lot owners.

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As an outcome of the recent Building Quality Inquiry held in Canberra last month, the ACT Government enacted new regulations on private certifiers, requiring them to adhere to stricter rules when submitting design documents for strata buildings.

Ms Fisher says, “Collectively, these proposed regulations mark a positive step forward to improving building quality in the ACT and ensuring those behind defective products are kept accountable.

“While we support them in theory, it’s critical the ACT Government involves SCA in any discussion regarding strata legislation.”

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About Strata Community Association

Strata Community Association Limited (SCA) is the peak industry body for Body Corporate and Community Title Management in Australia & New Zealand. Membership includes body corporate managers, support staff, committee members and suppliers of products and services to the industry. SCA proudly fulfils the dual roles of a professional institute and consumer advocate.

SCA has in excess of 3,300 members who help oversee, advise or manage a combined property portfolio with an estimated replacement value of over \$1.2 trillion. Website: <http://stratacommunity.org.au/>

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