

2017 Year in Review

The Year in Numbers

- 15 – years of owner support and advocacy
- 18 – government submissions
- 129 – print/digital articles (+reprints)
- 46 – radio interviews
- 11 – TV interviews
- 10 – member events
- 1 – academic research partnership
- 5 – voluntary Board members
- 2 – part-time staff members
- some wonderful volunteers who assisted with meetings, seminars, and submissions

Member Services

During the year we held 4 meetings and 6 seminars & events, covering a variety of topics:

- February: Managing & Maintaining Your Building, Installing Window Safety Devices
- April: Strata Committee Roles & Responsibilities
- May: All Things Insurance
- May II: Renovations and Repairs - Who is Responsible for What?
- June: Timely & Controlled Maintenance - The Best Return on Investment
- August: Clarity on Your Capital Works Fund
- October: Short Term Letting Forum
- November: By-laws – Navigating the new legislation
- November II: Critical Times for Lift Emergency Phones
- December: Understanding Strata Financials & How to Improve Them

OCN Supporter, MYBOS, offered to waive the minimum annual fee for OCN members who purchased their building management software, making it affordable for smaller schemes.

Achievements

Terrorism Cover

OCN submissions to Treasury re the inability of large residential and mixed use strata schemes to access terrorism cover prompted the government to permit these schemes to access this cover.

Thanks to our sponsors

Advocacy

'Our Strata Our Choice' Short Term Letting Campaign

In response to a NSW parliamentary committee recommendation to permit short term letting in residential buildings, OCN launched the Our Strata Our Choice campaign to secure the democratic right for owners to decide what is permitted their building is used. OCN featured prominently in the media, and held a public forum, while actively engaging with government to voice owners' concerns.

Strata Insurance

OCN made a submission to a Senate Inquiry pointing out the unnecessary tax burden (emergency services levy, stamp duty and GST) and conflicted commissions which inflate insurance premiums. The government announced removal of the ESL, then recanted citing 'unintended consequences'. OCN also assisted Choice investigate a recent spike in strata insurance claim denials - article.

OCN also did a joint submission with ARAMA on unaffordable strata insurance in Far North Queensland.

Building Defects

OCN was active on numerous fronts, including advocating implementation of the Lambert Review recommendations to better regulate the construction industry, supporting regulation of the fire safety industry, calling for greater home warranty protections, and a robust building defects bond scheme. At a federal level OCN advocated reforms to address illegal phoenix activity, which allows dodgy builders to avoid defects rectification.

OCN also advocated better regulation of non-compliant building products, participated in a roundtable on the Building Products (Safety) Bill 2017, and appeared before a Senate Inquiry into flammable cladding which formed part of an explosive Four Corners expose.

Accreditation of Fire Safety Practitioners

OCN worked with government and industry to accredit these currently unregulated operators. This is an important reform given the life safety implications of fire safety inspections and certification.

Letterbox Theft & Identity Fraud

OCN teamed up with the police and Crime Stoppers to alert strata owners to the serious threat posed by overseas crime gangs targeting densely populated areas on transport lines to steal people's identities. Fact sheet.

Qld Law Reforms

OCN did several joint submissions with SCA(Q) and ARAMA on proposed reforms.

Federal Treasury Pre-Budget Submission

OCN submitted the areas that the federal government needs to fund in 2018-19, being building defects and non-compliant products.