

2019 Year in Review

The Year in Numbers

- 17 Years of Owner Support and Advocacy
- 14 Government [Submissions](#)
- 7 [Events](#)
- 103 Print/Digital [News Articles](#)
(+ countless reprints by other publications)
- 28 Radio [Interviews](#)
- 41 TV [Interviews](#)
- 1 [Podcast](#)
- 5 Voluntary [Board Members](#)
- 2 Part-Time Staff Members
- 2 fabulous pro bono defects lawyers –
Banjo Stanton and Paul Jurdeczka
- Some wonderful volunteer members
assisting with meetings and seminars

Achievements

Off-The-Plan Contracts

OCN was involved in further reforms to provide greater protections to purchasers.

Short Term Letting

OCN commissioned a members-only proforma short term letting by-law to effectively enable an owners corporation to prohibit certain short-term letting in their residential strata community.

New Strata Portal

OCN initiated the development of a Strata Portal by NSW Customer Service, to enable:

- government to communicate directly and simultaneously with residential strata schemes;
- the interrogation of data for various purposes;
- new buyers to access certain core information.

Member Events

- February – OCN Updates on Building defects, NBN rollout, Short Term Letting and the NSW Election
- March – Flammable Cladding seminar
- April – Australia Building Management Accreditation Building Manager training session x 2
- May – Capital Works Fund Plans & Sustainability Projects
- June – Creating Effective Partnerships Between Committees, Building Managers and Strata Managers
- September - Managing Defects and Major Maintenance Projects
- November – OCN AGM + Opal Tower Story + Open Forum re Future Priorities

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STRATA | **PLUS**

Advocacy

OCN meets quarterly with the NSW Fair Trading Commissioner and senior staff to discuss the issues impacting residential owners, such as defects, short term letting, and embedded networks.

Short Term Letting in NSW

We produced a [Fact Sheet](#) and commissioned a Proforma By-Law for members, to enable them to prohibit certain short term letting under the new NSW laws.

Our calls for an independent public Register gained traction with the Ministers

Building Defects

OCN is working closely with the government, industry, newly appointed Building Commissioner and stakeholders to address the cracks in the residential construction sector that can no longer be wallpapered over.

NSW Inquiry into the Regulation of Building Standards, Quality and Disputes

OCN was invited to provide testimony regarding the extent and impact of building defects on three occasions. You can read [the OCN submissions here](#).

“Representatives from the [Insurance Council of Australia](#) are currently watching testimony from the [Owners Corporation Network of Australia Ltd \(OCN\)](#) giving evidence at the NSW Inquiry into Building Quality. OCN have articulated, with simple elegance, the real tragedy that arises from the cladding and building quality crisis - the impacts on families, investors and businesses who have been left with defected buildings and an overly complicated liability/remediation process, often delivering too little, too late. Well done to [Karen Stiles](#) and colleagues.” Karl Sullivan, Insurance Council of Australia at the Inquiry into Regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes

NSW Design and Building Practitioners Bill

OCN was actively involved in stakeholder roundtables during development of this Bill, as well as advocating to other political parties the importance of the reforms. OCN’s contribution was acknowledged in parliament:

“As members know, the Owners Corporation Network was very strong on this matter. I know that the member for Sydney will agree with me that the network has been incredible in its advocacy for the people it represents, who of course are the cohort that is so affected by these problems and the crisis in our building industry.” Shadow Minister for Building Reform & Property, Yasmin Catley, on the Design & Building Practitioners Bill 2019

“Before closing, I acknowledge the tremendous work of the Owners Corporation Network in getting to this outcome. The team continues to provide me with advice on improving protections for apartment owners and has been integral to improving the regime put forward in the bill.” Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, on the Design & Building Practitioners Bill 2019