

2020 Year in Review

The Year in Numbers

- 18 Years of Owner Advocacy & Education
- 1 Government [Submission](#)
- 5 [Events](#)
- 42 [News Articles/Podcasts](#)
- 6 [Radio Interviews](#)
- 3 [TV Interviews](#)
- 41% growth in Individual members
- 5 Hardworking Volunteer [Board Members](#)
- 2 Part-Time Staff Members
- 2 fabulous pro bono defects lawyers – Banjo Stanton and Paul Jurdeczka
- Some wonderful volunteer members assisting with events & committees
- 63% growth in scheme members

Achievements

New Branding, Website & Automation

Thanks to a successful partnership with the City of Sydney OCN launched a fresh new look and feel as well as a new, easy to navigate website with new Member Portal filled with members-only services, offers and by-laws, relevant strata information, guides, fact sheets and news. We automated membership renewals to make it easier for members and less resource intensive for us, so we can focus on delivering even more member services.

Short Term Letting

OCN achieved a hard-fought ability for owners corporations to prohibit investor owners from short term letting and commissioned a members-only proforma short term letting by-law to effect that.

Strata Portal

The Strata Portal OCN strongly advocated for, to enable government to communicate directly with residential strata schemes, and to interrogate data collected to identify trends and better support strata owners is close to being launched by the NSW government.

Building Defects

OCN was the driving force for a retrospective duty of care owed to apartment owners. This duty of care will benefit thousands of owners impacted by building defects.

Member Events

- In the Line of Fire webinar
- Online Member Update
- Short Term Letting webinar
- Online Member Update/AGM
- Electric Vehicle Charging webinar

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Advocacy

Short Term Letting in NSW

We produced a [Fact Sheet](#) and a Proforma By-Law for members to prohibit certain short term letting under the new NSW laws. We worked with government and industry to produce a Code of Conduct for 'hosts' and 'guests' which came into effect in 2020. And we called for a public Register which should be established in mid 2021.

Building Defects

We produced a [policy](#): A Better Deal for Strata – Consumer Protection – Building Defects.

And we worked closely with the government, newly appointed Building Commissioner, and stakeholders to address the failure of the residential construction sector to deliver trustworthy buildings. This included participating in development of a robust Ratings Tool, [Construct NSW](#) steering group and 3 of the 6 underpinning [Reform Pillars](#). OCN's goal is a 10 year warranty on building defects backed up by an insurance policy.

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

OCN testimony regarding the extent and impact of building defects informed the Committee's extensive recommendations to address the impact on strata owners. You can read the [OCN submissions here](#).

NSW Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020

This legislation gives the NSW Building Commissioner wide ranging powers to audit, apply sanctions up to and including prohibiting the issue of an Occupancy Certificate, which prevents the sale of off-the-plan purchases.

NSW Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020

OCN was actively involved in development of this legislation and was the sole driving force for a retrospective duty of care owed to apartment owners which will benefit thousands of impacted owners.

NSW Strata Specific COVID-19 Guidance & Support

OCN caused NSW Fair Trading to produce [strata specific guidance](#) and enact emergency powers regarding electronic voting for meetings, levies, budgets and other crucial matters, as well as establish a dedicated focal point to coordinate the policy, communication and government response to the residential strata sector. OCN also produced a levy modelling tool to assist owners corporations manage potential levy defaults.

Fire Safety

In response to legislative changes that aim to improve fire safety design, inspection, and maintenance, but may significantly increase costs to strata owners, OCN commissioned a proforma by-law to clarify individual and scheme rights and responsibilities.