

2021 Year in Review

The Year in Numbers

- 19 Years of Owner Advocacy & Education
- 12 Government [Submissions](#)
- 10 [Events](#)
- 52 [News Articles/Podcasts](#)
- 5 [Radio Interviews](#)
- 7 [TV Interviews](#)
- 4 Hardworking Volunteer [Board Members](#)
- 3 Part-Time Staff Members
- 2 fabulous pro bono defects lawyers – Banjo Stanton and Paul Jurdeczka
- Some wonderful volunteer members assisting with events & committees

Member Events

- Unravelling Embedded Networks
- Working with your Strata Manager
- Understanding the Strata Basics
- Be Safe in Strata
- Grow Your Wellbeing
- Renovations – Rights and Regulations
- Financial Statements & Audits
- Waterproofing – Getting it right
- OCN Annual General Meeting
- Strata Matters

Advocacy

COVID-19

OCN produced several policy position papers highlighting the unique needs and transmission risks of high-rise apartments, the practice of letting casualised quarantine hotel security guards work in them. As a result, NSW Health eventually mandated masks on indoor common property and produced some signage and communication templates to assist committees struggling with the legal and human complexities posed by the pandemic.

Strata Law Reforms

We made a [substantial submission](#) to the 5 year review of the Strata Schemes Development and Management Acts, outlining reforms required to improve the strata owning and living experience. We also ran a separate [survey of committee members](#), focusing on issues of concern to them, and delivered the results to the Minister.

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Short Term Letting in NSW

We produced a [substantial report](#) on the risks and impacts of allowing commercial short term letting in residential strata buildings. The paper identified hidden costs and canvassed options to better support strata schemes and address unresolved strata policy issues.

Building Defects

We worked closely with the NSW Building Commissioner and stakeholders to address the failure of the residential construction sector to deliver trustworthy buildings. This included participating in development of the robust [iCIRT Ratings Tool](#), the [Construct NSW](#) steering group and 3 of the 6 underpinning [Reform Pillars](#).

OCN's goal has been a 10 year warranty backed by an insurance policy. As the result of our work in this space, NSW is several steps closer to this outcome. We are pleased to sit on the Minister's Decennial Insurance Panel.

OCN also made a submission to the Australian Building Codes Board Building requirement for a Building Manual to be handed to new owners at the first AGM. This will deliver Australia wide benefits to off the plan purchasers.

NSW Further Inquiry into the Regulation of Building Standards

OCN again testified before the Upper House Committee in relation to the government's positive building reform program, including the flammable cladding replacement program. We also raised some significant issues that have yet to be addressed in the Design and Building Practitioners Act, covering transparency, aspects of building services and other building elements, and design of waterproofing repair works which is causing a lot of angst for owners and contractors alike. The Inquiry terms of reference, submissions and hearing transcripts are [here](#).

UNSW City Futures 'Co-Design Guide for Transforming Ageing Apartment Buildings'

OCN was invited to sit on the project advisory panel. A small number of buildings have so far elected to refurbish older buildings, delivering major building and amenity upgrades, sometimes by selling unused space to fund works. The project aims to unlock the redevelopment potential of ageing apartments by enabling transformative redesign to become a mainstream redevelopment option

Electric Vehicles

As the result of all our work in this exciting space we secured a state government consultancy to write a Plain English EV charging guide.