

MEDIA RELEASE

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PEAK BODY CALLS FOR MAJOR NEW APARTMENT BUILDING DESIGN CHANGES

NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2030 AND MAJOR NEW SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN STANDARDS

The \$400billion apartment owners sector in New South Wales will mobilise in the lead up to the March 2023 State election to call for major changes to design, management, emergency preparedness and related issues.

Election candidates in seats with a heavy strata footprint will be asked to support the policy changes being demanded by apartment owners.

The peak body representing the interests of the 1.1million NSW apartment owners will enter State election policy debate for the first time in its 20 year history and push for all new apartment buildings to operate with net zero emission by 2030.

It also wants a Senior Minister appointed to safeguard the interests of this fast growing housing sector, and continued resourcing for the Office of the NSW Building Commissioner.

The Owners Corporation Network yesterday announced it is finalising a 10 point plan to overhaul pressing sector issues and will lobby all sides of politics to seek policy change commitments before the March State election.

OCN Chair, Fred Tuckwell, speaking at a function in Sydney yesterday to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the OCN, said the peak body had decided to reach out to apartment and unit owners and mobilise their voice to demand change in the lead up to the State poll.

“Apartment owners have had an horrendous time over the last few years and we are calling for urgent action from our State Government, regardless of who wins the election.

“Apartment owners want a stronger voice in Government policy making and we also want to see a senior Ministerial voice for apartment owners.

About OCN

The Owners Corporation Network of Australia Limited (OCN) is the peak consumer body representing residential strata and community title owners and residents. Strata is the fastest growing form of residential property ownership in Australia, and the growth of this sector raises increasingly important questions over property ownership and governance.

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“The Covid pandemic has also taught us that the sector is under prepared and lacking support from Government to meet future emergencies. That needs to change before the next emergency, such as the recent flooding crisis.

“We will remain 100% apolitical but apartment owners in this State want their voice heard before decisions are made.”

Mr Tuckwell said NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler, is doing an outstanding job ridding the State of cowboys and the OCN wants to see more resources being applied to enable greater reach and impact.

The OCN says it is committed to a sustainability agenda headlined by new NSW apartment builds being designed to meet net zero emission standards from 2030.

“Our 10 point plan seeks that a clear policy change be put into place wherein apartment owners have a greater say about what happens in their communities.

“Over the next few months we will be highlighting to apartment owners in this State that their combined voice will be loud enough to bring change and we will be insisting that we see evidence of major change to these new policies within 100 days of the newly appointed Government winning office.”

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Media Comment:

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