

Luxury comes at a price

If you live in an apartment complex, you need to know your rights.
Josh Jennings, The Age, 17/03/2012, Domain apartment Lift Out Guide

Changing needs call for reinvention

Retrofitting buildings will become more common as stock ages or needs to be redesigned. The Age, Domain, Chris Tolhurst, 18/02/2012



Doors open to complex issues

Enjoy problem solving? Consider becoming an owners corporation manager, writes Sue Green.
The Age My Career section (& SMH), Sat 04/02/2012; re strata management as a career

Property jargon: How to understand the difference between a strata committee, a body corporate and an owners corporation

API Magazine newsletter, 26/01/2012; re strata terminology

No parking

If the Victorian Government reduces the number of car spaces required in Melbourne's new unit developments, units with a car space are likely to become much more valuable.
Nicole Navarro, Australian Property Investor Magazine, Feb 2012;



Owners corporations: Sharing not always bliss

Belonging to an owners corporation can have its pluses and minuses, writes Sue Green.
The Sunday Age, Domain, August 21, 2011

Surge in electric hostility

Smart electricity meters are sometimes being installed without consent and against the wishes of property owners, writes Cameron Houston.
The Sunday Age, 14/08/2011.



Learning to live together

From bringing in the rubbish bins to gate-crashers in the communal pool, there are apartment conventions that go beyond simple etiquette, writes Josh Jennings.
28/08/2011, The Age, Domain liftout magazine "Apartment Guide" Spring 2011.

Carbon tax hits hard on multi-dwellings

Stonnington Leader, Ainsleigh Sheridan, 19/07/2011

Disaster zones face 400pc hike in insurance cover

APARTMENT owners in far north Queensland face premium rises of up to 400 per cent as insurers move to offset the costs of natural disasters. The Australian, 21/07/2011

Buyers shy away from costly unit insurance

Townsville Bulletin, 23/07/2011

Insurance out of control in cyclone prone areas, says strata industry

Out of control insurance premiums are threatening the viability of existing medium and high density communities in cyclone-prone areas of northern Australia. Strata Community Australia chief executive Mark Lever says they are an urgent signal for a government backed insurance fund. The Fifth Estate, 26/07/2011

Strata Cover up 300pc

Townsville Bulletin, 06/08/2011

Brokers baffled over market withdrawals

Brokers say it's almost impossible to place business in Far North Queensland's strata market and despite premium increases of up to 400% they are urging customers to grab any option for cover. Insurancenews.com.au, 01/08/2011

Apartments hamstrung by insurance includes SCA comments

Entire apartment communities in cyclone-affected areas such as the Queensland's Sunshine Coast are becoming unviable due to soaring insurance premiums in the wake of cyclone Yasi. AFR, Ben Hurley, 06/08/2011

Boom in rooftop solar panels 'extraordinary'

THE solar bonus scheme introduced last year was very successful in some suburbs, with more than 14 per cent of homes installing rooftop solar panels, compared with a statewide average of about 3 per cent.

SMH, 08/08/2011

This article includes comments from SCA -

The chief executive of Strata Community Australia, Mark Lever, said more than 70 per cent of residents in many Sydney local government areas live in apartments, as do more than 50 per cent in North Sydney.

He said while many of them wanted to install solar panels, the federal and state governments had not considered their needs while designing rebate schemes, leaving regulatory hurdles to be cleared.

"Body corporates are not eligible for federal renewable energy certificates, and then they have to deal with the fact the Tax Office regards any income to the body corporate from solar schemes as mutual income that is taxable in the hands of individual owners," Mr Lever said.

Insurance out of control in cyclone prone areas, says strata industry

Out of control insurance premiums are threatening the viability of existing medium and high density communities in cyclone-prone areas of northern Australia. Strata Community... The Fifth Estate, 26/07/2011

Call for government-backed fund

API magazine, October 2011; re insurance in FNQ

Call to cut water use in flats by the meter

Every new apartment in Melbourne and Brisbane comes with its own water meter, but in Sydney the only ones that do are all in one block in Hornsby. SMH, 01/10/2011

Far Northern unit owners plea for fair go on insurance

BODY corporate and strata title owners are demanding a Federal Government-backed reinsurance scheme if an inquiry into the insurance industry does not result in a significant fall in premiums....

Nick Dalton, The Cairns Post, QLD, Australia 24/11/2011

Strata Cover costs probe

The federal government has added strata insurance to its inquiry into the industry response to recent natural disasters. AFR; 24 November 2011 | Ben Hurley

Whitsunday Times: "Insurance Reviewed In Region"

17/11/2011

ABC Radio interview with SCA re FNQ insurance crisis, 15/11/2011

ABC News: "Federal intervention urged amid soaring insurance costs"

A property industry group says the Federal Government needs to step in to stop skyrocketing property insurance costs in north Queensland. 14/11/2011

Cairns Post: "Ease our insurance pain"

THOUSANDS of Far Northern apartment owners and investors hit by massive hikes in body corporate insurance will have their concerns heard by the consumer rights umpire; 09/11/2011

Singapore held up as strata model

Australia is looking to Singapore for guidance in how to terminate strata schemes to demolish and renew apartment buildings. AFR 15/11/2011

Smart Property Investor magazine, November 2011, strata Q&A with Mark Lever, SCA

Beware of cheap strata levies

Strata lobby groups are warning apartment owners to be careful when an building's strata levies are unusually cheap. AFR, 08/11/2011

Ill wind blows insurance premiums out of reach

Entire apartment communities in cyclone-prone areas of northern Australia are becoming unviable due to soaring insurance premiums, which have more than tripled since cyclone Yasi struck earlier this year.

AFR; 06/08/2011

Owners face big bills over falls from apartments

It is just a matter of time before individual unit owners will be asked to pay multimillion-dollar damages if a child falls from their apartment building, the head of a strata industry body says. SMH, 25/01/2012

Pet lovers have rights too

It's not as tough as you might think to keep a little dog in a flat. Canberra Times, 26/01/2012

Strata title insurance costs at 'crisis point', parliamentary inquiry in Far North told

Unit owners and body corporate managers have told of their frustration, anger and confusion at rises in strata title insurance costs, which they say are crippling many local owners and businesses.

The Cairns Post, 31/01/2012

Push for high-rise household pets

AN estimated 22 per cent of Australian households now live in homes that are covered by a strata plan.

Bayside Bulletin, 02/03/2012

Rising premiums disastrous for strata owners

For the 80000 strata title owners in North Queensland and the North West, body corporate insurance has become crippling. Just how crippling was revealed by a Commonwealth parliamentary inquiry.

Robert Harley, The Australian Financial Review, 24/03/2012

Involvement key to happy flat dwellers

Two new reports have painted an uncomfortable picture of apartment living. The reports, prepared ahead of the NSW government's review of strata title legislation, highlight the disputes that arise from building defects and the pressures of living so close together. AFR, Robert Harley, 26/05/2012

Strata program in train

Article about SCA's accreditation program launched at national convention. AFR, 29/05/2012

Running for cover

Natural disasters have wiped out residential strata title insurance options for unit owners in north and far north Queensland, resulting in price hikes of up to 800 per cent. API Magazine, July 2012, Nicole Navarro

Strata to bypass government

Strata Community Australia will start an accreditation program for strata management companies to take effect at the end of the year. The industry body is frustrated with the delays to government plans for national occupational licensing. AFR, 31/05/2012, Ben Hurley