

# ACSL

Australian College of Strata Lawyers

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 22 March 2024**

### **Statement of Position**

In response to recent reporting by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the announcement of its investigation into the national strata management industry, the Australian College of Strata Lawyers publishes this statement of position.

The Australian College of Strata Lawyers (College) is a self-governing association of legal practitioners which seeks the development of laws for the common good and to achieve the highest standard of good governance under those laws.

The College supports the recommendations made by John Trowbridge in his *Independent Review of Strata Insurance Practices* (2022-2023), which includes the phasing out of the commission rebate/broker fee system.

College President, Tim Graham, says:

*"As it stands there is only one solution: strata managers must discontinue accepting commissions, payments, or benefits and act strictly in their role as fiduciaries of the owners corporations / bodies corporate they manage. The sector is pervaded by inadequate legal disclosure, which in any event is not the panacea. Even if the legal disclosure was adequate, to be a true professional a strata/body corporate manager would not accept commissions, payments, or benefits, particularly in circumstances where they are simply adding to the costs of their client."*

The College is of the view that all who provide services to strata owners, whether strata/body corporate managers, strata lawyers, other professionals, contractors and trades, should do so with:

- integrity,
- transparency,
- disclosure,
- informed consent, and
- fair pricing.

The College acknowledges the many strata service providers who do so act and encourages their continued professionalism.



**Tim Graham**  
**President**  
**The Australian College of Strata Lawyers**

Media enquiries:  
Amanda Farmer [amanda@lawyerschambers.com.au](mailto:amanda@lawyerschambers.com.au)  
0410 488 802

