

From: OCN Executive Officer <eo@ocn.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2019 12:28 AM
To: David Watt
Subject: OCN September Update

OCN Subscriber Update

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**OWNERS
CORPORATION
NETWORK**

Level 5, 95 Pitt Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000
Australia
T: (02) 8197 9919
www.ocn.org.au



OCN Update - September 2019

Dear David

The pace has not slowed this month for strata or for OCN.

We held another well attended members meeting packed full of activity updates and practical advice on managing major projects. You can access the presentation on the website, with the detailed notes being added this week.

The building defect issue keeps rolling on. The NSW *Building Stronger Foundations* reforms are being rushed, and OCN is fighting hard to improve consumer protections. Our pro bono legal friends have gone above and beyond with their continued contribution.

The ABC 7.30 Report will air a 3-part series starting 21 October, thanks to our detailed briefing. But, as usual, so much hard work by OCN is out of view.

OCN made a major submission on the adverse impacts of the Government's "Airbnb reform". And OCN Director Jane Hearn updated the Green Square Network on the government's plans, which will open apartment communities up to rampant short term lets. The OCN members-only proforma by-law will be your only protection.

On a lighter note, the members-only forum has been active on topics as diverse as strata insurance and bee keeping! Great to see members making other members' lives easier.

Karen Stiles
Executive Officer

HAVE YOUR SAY

RMIT Cladding Research Project

RMIT invites you to participate in the “**At what cost? Cladding concerns for owners**” research project, aimed to uncover the scale of the problems owners of property with combustible cladding face day to day across Australia. This involves a 30-60 minute audio-recorded **in-person or telephone interview**. Your answers will form the basis of range of peer reviewed reports, journal articles, conference paper/s and/ or press releases.

Interested? Email Dr David Oswald at david.oswald@rmit.edu.au or Dr Trivess Moore at trivess.moore@rmit.edu.au.



The Building Commissioner Wants Feedback

The [Building Commissioner](#) is updating OCN on his efforts to reshape the industry and restore consumer confidence. We are supporting him on a number of levels, including a consumer confidence survey to track the success of reforms.

If you have experience dealing with substantial defects relating to structure, waterproofing, fire rating and enclosure: the Building Commissioner is keen to hear your perspective. Email me at eo@ocn.org.au and I will collate the feedback.

OCN UPCOMING EVENTS



For your diary...



Saturday 16 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm - Have your say on what you'd like to see OCN focus on in 2020. Can't attend the meeting? Submit your thoughts via the [event page](#) on the website! [Details](#).

Our **21 September meeting** was packed full of activity updates and practical advice on managing major projects. Members can access the [major projects presentation](#) on the website as well as all archived events.



Only for Members!

It Pays to Belong to OCN

Join OCN to take advantage of a growing suite of member benefits, like the Proforma Short Term Letting By-law, helpline and software*. Membership is just \$50+GST for individuals, \$150+GST for small schemes or \$350+GST for large schemes. Less than a cup of coffee a week!

* eligibility criteria apply



Strata Title Conference Talks Crisis Management

OCN was invited to join a panel discussion on crisis management, following recent emergency evacuations.

The conference is a Who's Who of strata and OCN had the opportunity not only to remind the audience It's All About the Owners, but to network with key influencers in the academic, legal and management fields. Thanks Pamela!



Fair Trading Webinars

NSW Fair Trading has approached OCN to develop future webinar content for strata owners. This is very exciting and will add to the webinars we hope to start delivering in 2020.



Building Stronger Foundations Consultation

OCN continues to be heavily involved in developing the NSW Government's [*Building Stronger Foundations*](#) reforms.

The Minister has invited OCN to sit on his Building Regulation Expert Panel.

The [*Design & Building Practitioners Exposure Bill*](#) was released for **comment by 16 October**. OCN and our wonderful pro bono lawyers are working hard to deliver good public policy despite the breakneck speed of drafting.

New [*Building Certifier Regulations*](#) were released for **comment by 28 October**, and will come into effect soon.



NSW Inquiry into Building Regulation, Standards, Quality and Disputes

OCN made a detailed supplementary submission to the Upper House Inquiry into Building Regulation following its testimony.

A fourth hearing date has been set for 5 November, which we understand will focus on **flammable cladding**. You can observe or listen to the [live webcast](#) on the day.

[READ SUBMISSION](#)



Short Term Letting

OCN put in a second, major submission detailing its concerns with government proposals.

[READ SUBMISSIONS](#)

OCN - The Voice of Strata Owners

Check out the [OCN Policies here](#).

Check out the [latest submissions here](#).

Check out the [latest OCN media coverage here](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE STRATA SECTOR



Upcoming Events NSW



Strata Skills 101 Workshop Program, 6pm - 8pm

29 October

Strata Committees: Roles & Responsibilities

[REGISTER](#)

30 October

Strata Basics: What you need to know before living in an apartment

[REGISTER](#)

12 November

Strata Paws: Living with Pets in Apartments

[REGISTER](#)

STRATA SECTOR NEWS



Electric Vehicle Charging

Interested in EVs? Then this video webinar, sponsored by six local councils and featuring Tesla enthusiast and apartment dweller, Mark Melocco, Tim Washington from Jetcharge and Brent Clark from Wattblock is for you! Over 130 people attended the webinar when it was recorded live.

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)



Sustainable House Day

I toured Mirvac's new 'One Planet Living' community on Sustainable House Day, which incorporates the Marrickville library and lots of green space and is designed to provide happy, healthy, and more sustainable living.

It is designed to foster working from home (the beautiful new library has free wifi & a coffee shop), walking and cycling and getting to know your neighbours via fitness classes, a community garden and rooftop bbq. Then there's the recycled water and solar powered sensor LED lights for common property, Go Get spaces, an EV super charger, EV ready car spaces, and the apartments boast 100% wool carpets, low VOC paint, cross ventilation, balconies big enough for kitchen gardens.

[MORE INFO](#)



Short Term Letting

The WA Inquiry into short term letting has released its report. The Committee considers short term rentals should be appropriately regulated, according to local conditions. They **recommend a state-wide register** as a powerful tool for LGAs to understand and **manage the impact of short term rentals in their individual communities**.

[READ REPORT](#)



Building Defects and Flammable Cladding

NSW Fair Trading reports that the Cladding Strikeforce has set up a support group to assist Local Councils assess non-compliant cladding.

The NSW government continues to resist funding remediation of privately owned buildings despite Victoria's \$600m announcement.

The debate about the fate of Mascot Towers owners continues, with an open letter to the Minister begging for help and distressed owners attending Question Time to hear the government's plans to assist.

One devastated owner has set up a petition asking the Federal Government for a Royal Commission into the Home Building Industry.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)