

\$16 million announced to deliver up to 5,000 rooftop solar installations for Victorian apartments

1 September 2023: Strata Community Association (Vic), the peak body for the Owners Corporations industry, welcomes the recent joint announcement of a Victorian-Commonwealth Government deal to [provide \\$16 million to deliver thousands of rooftop solar installations for apartment residents across Victoria](#).

The apartment upgrades program, which forms part of the [Commonwealth's Community Solar Banks program](#), will provide grants up to \$2, 800 per apartment – or up to \$140, 000 total for each apartment building – to install rooftop systems.

Support for this program is consistent with SCA (Vic)'s commitment to align with the principles of the [United Nations \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#), mirroring the commitment of [the Victorian Government with the passage of the Climate Change Act \(2017\)](#) to act to prevent, and adapt to, events associated with climate change.

“While the announcement of the Victorian-Commonwealth Government deal providing extra support to Victorian strata residents to install rooftop solar panels is a step in the right direction, it is still not enough,” said SCA (Vic) President Julie McLean.

“Rooftop solar panels will help provide cheaper and cleaner energy but there are over 11, 000 Class 2 buildings and even more Class 1A buildings in Victoria, so further action must be taken to ensure sustainability initiatives are adopted more widely across the state,” she said.

SCA National President Chris Duggan said this announcement demonstrates the commitment of the Commonwealth Government and Victorian Government to providing practical measures to help address energy and environmental concerns.

“Millions of Australians currently live in strata, which is projected to increase significantly in future, so we are pleased to see the Victorian-Commonwealth deal being made and believe it will help in reducing energy costs and emissions for consumers.

“The focus on strata residential building upgrades is indicative of an encouraging trend by state and federal government, especially over the last two years, of recognising the strata sector and its importance as they formulate policies that affect Australians on critical issues.

Programs such as this are a great start for improving sustainability in strata communities, and we call on governments at all levels to continue this work, and expand upon it, so even more Australians can capitalise on the benefits of renewables,” he said.

Owners Corporation managers will play a vital role as the rooftop solar installation program is implemented, helping to ensure works undertaken are conducted as smoothly and efficiently as possible with minimal disruption to strata residents.

SCA (Vic) provides ongoing education and training to members, who account for a significant percentage of all professional Owners Corporation managers in the state, and this will help ensure our members are best placed to guide Owners Corporations on this sustainability journey.

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About Strata Community Association (Vic)

[Strata Community Association \(Vic\)](#) is the peak body for the Owners Corporations industry. SCA (Vic) was formed in 1990 to provide advocacy, support, advice and promotion.

It is estimated that almost one in five Victorians live in a strata-titled property. Owners Corporations represent property valued at nearly \$400 billion across Victoria.

The strata sector comprises commercial, industrial, and recreational properties ranging from two units in a suburban street to many hundreds of units in inner city apartment buildings.

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