

Response to the Strata Community Association (Vic) Election Priorities 2022

Roma Britnell MP, Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs

Dear Liam

Thank-you for your correspondence of 4 October 2022. I apologise for the delay in getting our response back to you.

Below is the Liberals and Nationals' response to your priorities list.

- Establishment of a dedicated Victorian strata helpline to assist strata lot owners and residents in seeking information and advice prior to dispute resolution processes. A commitment of \$381,000.00 per year or \$1.524 million over the next term of government.

Supported in Principle, but we would prefer this advice is integrated into existing advice services rather than delivered in isolation. Additional resourcing for VCAT would also reduce delays in dispute resolution.

- Establishment of a minimum educational standard for owners corporation managers and mandatory CPD quotas, in alignment with Victoria's commitment to Australian Mutual Recognition (AMR). A commitment to establish a working group with view to enacting minimum standards for strata managers in this term of government.

Supported in principle. We commit to investigate the enacting of minimum standards for strata managers through the establishment of a working group.

- Establishment of a Victorian Strata Sustainability Fund, in a joint partnership between SCA (Vic) and Sustainability Victoria, to invest together in programs (in the form of rebates, grants and/or low/no-interest loans) specifically directed at owners corporations, which drive even greater uptake of energy, water and waste efficiency measures in strata buildings, based on the expertise and capability of industry to facilitate this, including:

- Full rebates for NABERS Ratings of 100 private apartment buildings at \$261,000.00 per year.
- Extension of the Solar Homes Program to apartments and townhouses.
- \$10 million towards co-funding of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in larger apartment buildings and complexes, with implementation overseen by an expert panel.

Supported in principle. The Liberal and Nationals have already announced new rebates of \$3,000 for home batteries and \$1,400 for new solar panel installations as well as rebates of up to \$8,800 for rental properties, including strata properties where permission is given to install.

Further, The Liberals and Nationals will pause Labor's new Electric Vehicle Tax until 2027, in line with New South Wales, to encourage more people to purchase an electric vehicle and save drivers the tax-hit they face for every kilometre they drive under Daniel Andrews' Labor. The pause will save electric vehicle and hydrogen vehicle drivers 2.6c per kilometre, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle drivers 2.1c per kilometre. This means an electric vehicle driver in Melbourne with a 40 kilometre return commute each day could save around \$380 a year, while a plug-in hybrid driver could save over \$300.

We will also establish a new \$50 million Community Charging Fund to leverage co-investment with businesses and community organisations including councils to install 600 new charging stations across Victoria. This co-investment could bring the total investment in new charging stations to \$100 million.

- Partnership between SCA (Vic) and Sustainability Victoria to provide education and administrative support to industry about available EV charging, battery storage, renewable energy, water, lighting, and waste improvement options under a future strata sustainability fund and continue the SCA Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program in so doing. A \$200,000.00 per year commitment, or \$800,000.00 over the next term of government.

Support in Principle. Investigate a partnership between SCA Vic and the Victorian government to provide education and administrative support to industry about available EV charging, battery storage, renewable energy, water, lighting, and waste improvement options through the establishment of a working party supported by the relevant department and chaired by the Minister for the Environment.

- Greater action taken by the Victorian Government to address existing loopholes in the Domestic Building Insurance (DBI) scheme, as well as illegal phoenixing activity within the building and development sectors.

Supported in principle. The Liberals and Nationals will create an accessible base building information portal managed by the VBA. In government, we will establish a working party to examine loopholes in the Domestic Building Insurance scheme as they pertain to strata communities.

Should the Liberal and National Parties form Government on November 26, we will look forward to maintaining an effective working relationship with your organisation as we look to progress these matters.

Kind regards,

Roma Britnell
26 October 2022