



Institute of Strata Title
Management Ltd

Media Release

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ISTM warns government to leave strata licensing alone

The Institute of Strata Title Management (ISTM) has rejected the NSW Government's proposal to abolish strata managers licensing saying it would lead to poorly educated managers and open the industry to cowboy operators in charge of millions of dollars of strata owners' monies.

David Ferguson, ISTM President, said currently strata managers in NSW must be licensed, which ensures they undertake ongoing educating and adhered to a code of ethics.

"NSW has one of the best strata schemes in the world. Our system is used as a model for other schemes overseas such as Singapore. To abolish the licensing system is to send NSW strata backwards and put homes and businesses at risk," he said.

"Strata managers are professional people operating in a growing industry. Currently, about 3.5 million Australians live in, own, or directly work in a strata building, putting the strata title management and service industry in Australia in touch with almost 15% of Australians. Within the next 25 to 30 years, strata titled apartments will almost out-rate residential houses as the number one choice as 'home'.

"Licensing provides consumers with the knowledge and comfort that they are dealing with people educated about their roles and responsibilities. This is especially the case as strata managers are responsible for millions of dollars of owners' monies held in trust accounts."

The Government claims that strata organisations in other states aren't licensed as the justification for abolishing licensing in NSW. This fails to recognise that the other states are working towards a licensing scheme of their own because regulation of the industry is seen as important protection for consumers.

"While the Government says licensing would be covered by other legislation it is not clear what this would be and until there are some clear direction ISTM cannot support this proposal. We need assurances that the industry will have the required regulation to back it to ensure the NSW industry attracts and trains the right people," Mr Ferguson said.

"The ISTM will be making strong recommendations to the NSW Government to leave this industry alone and concentrate on getting NSW back on track."

Submissions to the NSW Government close 28 November 2008.

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About the ISTM

The Institute of Strata Title Management (ISTM) is the peak industry body for strata title management in New South Wales; promoting the role of the professional strata team and the value such a team adds to owners corporations in managing risk and a creating a harmonious strata living experience.

For further Information please contact

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