



MEDIA RELEASE

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Industry Body Seeks Licensing of Strata Company Managers in Western Australia

The peak body for the strata sector in Western Australia, The Strata Titles Institute of WA (STIWA), is pushing for licensing of strata company managers in Western Australia.

Whilst most states in Australia have some form of regulation for strata company managers, the profession is currently not licensed in Western Australia.

The strata industry has grown substantially in recent years, with an estimated 10,000 strata lots being created each year and according to Mark Atkinson, President of STIWA, it is imperative the industry is regulated.

“Strata company managers have large responsibilities and can hold considerable sums of money on behalf of strata companies. It is essential that anyone working in this rapidly growing industry is regulated in some way.

“Strata titled living is becoming an increasingly popular option for developers, with more and more apartment, townhouses and units popping up across WA, so the issue of a lack of regulation is only going to magnify in the coming years,” he said.

STIWA currently has over 200 members, each of which is bound by a code of ethics. STIWA also has a system of accreditation for strata company managers, which commits them to regular professional development and training.

“We currently have approximately 50 accredited members at STIWA, all of whom have committed to a level of training each year. However, even though we encourage our members to become accredited, without formal licensing in place this is completely voluntary and therefore only a small percentage of our industry are as qualified as they could be,” Mr Atkinson said.

“At present anyone can become a strata company manager and open their own strata management business,” he added.

The development of the Council of Australian Government's National Occupational Licensing System (NOLS) has recently focused new attention on the question of whether or not strata company managers should be licensed in WA, and Mr Atkinson says he hopes this comes into place.

The NOLS would create a single occupational licence for selected occupations, allowing licensees to work anywhere in Australia with the one licence. Property agents are one of the occupations currently covered by the NOLS, with proposed effect from 1 July 2012.

"We would like to see strata company managers as one of the categories of the NOLS property agent licence and wholeheartedly support any move in this direction," Mr Atkinson said.

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