



Strata insurance increases spark widespread community concern – upcoming public hearings in North Queensland

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has been overwhelmed with the response to its inquiry into residential strata title insurance. The Committee has authorised more than 380 submissions for publication, with more to be added to the inquiry website in the coming weeks.

Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP said he appreciated the time and effort so many people had taken to alert the Committee to their concerns.

“I have been shocked by the scale of some of the insurance premium increases and I know the Committee is keen to gather more evidence on this concerning issue during the hearings in North Queensland,” he said.

The Committee’s hearings in Port Douglas and Cairns on Monday 30 January and in Townsville on Wednesday 1 February have also generated strong interest, with full hearing programs taking in a range of industry and community representatives. The Committee will be holding an insurance industry roundtable during the Cairns hearing with the Insurance Council of Australia. The hearings will close with half hour public forums, which will provide members of the public the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Details of the public hearings are as follows:

Monday 30 January 2012, 9am-12pm, Port Douglas Community Hall, Mowbray St, **Port Douglas**

Monday 30 January 2012, 2:30pm-6:00 pm, Sebel Hotel, 17 Abbott St, **Cairns**

Wednesday 1 February 2012, 9am-12pm, Reef HQ, 2 - 68 Flinders St, **Townsville** with videoconferencing available to Mackay from 1pm-3pm, Central Queensland University, 6/G.03 Boundary Rd, Planlands, **Mackay**.

Programs for the hearings and full terms of reference for the inquiry can be found on the inquiry’s website at www.aph.gov.au/strata. For further information please contact the Secretariat on spla.reps@aph.gov.au or ph 02 6277 2358. The hearings will be broadcast live via: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Submissions authorised for publication by the Committee can be viewed at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/spla/strata/subs.htm>. Further submissions received will be authorised for publication in the coming weeks.

Note: The Committee cannot investigate or make rulings on particular insurance claims.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312. **For background information**, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs**:

PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 2358
Facsimile: 02 6277 4427
E-mail: spla.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/spla