

13th January 2012

House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs

Committee activities (inquiries and reports)

Inquiry into residential strata title insurance

Dear Parliamentary Inquiry

I live in Cairns. In the last 18 months, the insurance charge for my unit has increased by, I believe, by at least 300%. Local insurance brokers have advised there is no option but to pay. They advise that there now a monopoly of just one insurer in town which will cover units, therefore they can charge what they like.

This dramatic insurance rise has forced many people into extreme hardship. It is not an optional cost, by law I must pay, or I lose my home. The rise has taken place despite Cairns itself actually having sustained virtually no damage from any major weather event in the last 20 years.

I hope that some form of government intervention, perhaps a guarantee of some sort to encourage the return of other insurers and ensure that fairness is returned to the market and that suffering is alleviated.

With thanks

Neil Sloggie