

15 March 2023

WA's COVID-19 management and response review
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
West Perth WA 6872



COVID19review@dpc.wa.gov.au

RE: Review of WA's COVID-19 management and response

I am writing in response to the request for feedback regarding the review of **WA's COVID-19 management and response**.

The strata sector found itself dealing with multiple challenges associated with preventing, managing, and responding to the spread of COVID-19, and the difficulties associated with these endeavors were compounded due to the nature of strata's high-density, multi-unit living arrangements.

Self-isolation, forced isolation, restricted travel and unemployment placed significant strain on strata facilities, communities and essential service providers. In particular, the progression of the spread of COVID-19 in WA required increased strata management and servicing, to avoid overwhelming essential services and to support residents through lock down and during virus control mitigation.

Strata Community Association (WA), as the peak industry body for body corporate and community title management (strata management) in Western Australia, bore the responsibility of being a go-to source of information regarding COVID-19 in strata throughout the pandemic, to support our members and ensure that the service compliance requirements, as well as the increased operational and safety requirements in high-density buildings were being satisfied.

As the pandemic evolved in Western Australia, SCA (WA) made requests for information to the government, specifically asking for guidance as to how strata occupations and services would be affected by the mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policy. The government advised SCA (WA) that it was waiting for the public health orders surrounding the mandate to be finalised, before proceeding to provide a definitive answer.

SCA (WA) believes that the reactivity and government time of response during this period was unsatisfactory, and limited the ability of SCA (WA) to provide accurate health and safety information that sought to reduce risk not only WA's strata management companies and related service providers, but for WA's (approximately) 400,000 strata residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this feedback. If you have any questions, please get in contact at media@strata.community.

Catherine Lezer

SCA (WA) President