

Governing the Compact City

Invitation to participate in a survey of Executive Committee members



We would like to invite Executive Committee members to participate in a survey about your experiences, and opinions, regarding the governance and management of your strata scheme.

To participate in the survey [click here](http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/), visit www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/ & follow the link, or contact Dr Easthope (details overleaf) to receive a copy of the survey in the post.

A new two-year research project, being undertaken with the assistance of the NSW strata industry, the NSW State Government and the Federal Government, will chart the key issues facing the governance and management of strata buildings. The research will be undertaken by the City Futures Research Centre at the University of NSW. The project is the first major study of the strata sector undertaken in Australia.

The research has three main aims:

1. To explore the role, capacity & effectiveness of owners' corporations as agencies of property governance and management.
2. To explore the capacity & effectiveness of strata managers as mediators of outcomes for owners and residents in strata & their role within the overall structure of management & governance.
3. To assess how well residential strata works from strata owners' points of view.

The project, which focuses on NSW, will deliver systematic information about the operation of the strata system. The findings will assist residents, owners and those involved in strata management and policy development to better understand the nature and scale of issues facing the strata sector and its capacity to self-manage these issues. It will provide an informed evidence base to support improved best practice and policy development across the sector. While it focuses on NSW, the results will inform policy and practice in the strata sector across Australia.

This survey is intended to gauge individual committee members' opinions and experiences, rather than a collective Executive Committee view. We therefore encourage all individual Executive Committee members to participate. We would be pleased if multiple committee members in the one strata scheme complete the survey.

If you complete the survey, you can go into the draw to **win 1 of 4 \$250 Coles Myer Gift Cards** (Authorised under NSW permit number LTPS/10/00291).

The attached project information statement provides some additional information about the research.

The City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales would like to thank your strata managing agent and the Institute of Strata Title Management (one of our project partners) for distributing this information on our behalf.



PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES



Date: 9th February 2010

Project Title: *Governing the Compact City: The role and effectiveness of strata management in higher density residential developments*

Approval No.: HREC 08372

FACULTY OF THE
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Participant selection and purpose of study

You are invited to participate in a study of the role and effectiveness of strata management in higher density residential developments. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are a member of the executive committee of a strata scheme in New South Wales.

Description of study

This research is part of a two-year research project being undertaken by the City Futures Research Centre at the University of NSW, funded by the Australian Research Council, in conjunction with partner organisations, the NSW Land and Property Management Authority, NSW Fair Trading, Owners Corporation Network, NSW Institute of Strata Title Managers (ISTM), Andreones Lawyers, Lannock Strata Finance and Macquarie Bank. The aim of the study is to provide strata owners, professionals and policymakers with a greater understanding of the effectiveness of the management and governance of the strata sector. One component of this research is a survey of members of the executive committees of owners' corporations throughout NSW.

If you choose to participate in this survey, the questions will focus on the role and function of your executive committee, decision making, participation and professional support as well as the relationship between the executive committee and strata managing agents and other stakeholders.

We expect the survey will take 20 minutes to complete. You can either complete the survey online by following the link at www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/ or contact Dr Easthope (details below) to post a copy of the survey to you.

We expect that the findings of this research will provide a strong evidence base to inform the development of more effective policies to address the more problematic aspects of strata regulation and will feed into good practice in management and governance of the sector. However, we cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this study.

Confidentiality and disclosure of information

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission, or except as required by law. By continuing with the survey, you are indicating that, having read the information provided in this information statement, you have decided to participate in this research.

We plan to discuss our findings at a series of workshops with our partner organisations as well as at a final industry seminar hosted by ISTM in Sydney for the partner organisations, media and other interested stakeholders. A final research report will also be published jointly by City Futures and the ISTM, with a key findings summary allowing wider dissemination. This report will be available online. The research will also be published in national and international journals to disseminate the findings to a wider policy and academic audience.

Recompense to participants

There will be no direct remuneration for your participation in this research. However, if you complete the survey, you can enter into a prize draw with a total prize pool of \$1,000.

Your consent

Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with The University of New South Wales or other participating organisations. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice by contacting Dr Hazel Easthope, City Futures Research Centre, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of NSW, NSW 2052.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Dr Hazel Easthope

City Futures Research Centre

FBE, University of NSW

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