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Director of Legislative Services  
Attorney-General's Department  
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## SCA (SA/NT) Response to the Review of Unclaimed Goods Act 1987

### About Us

Strata Community Association (SA/NT) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide feedback to the review of the Unclaimed Goods Act 1987.

SCA (SA/NT) proudly fulfills the dual roles of a professional organisation and consumer advocate - natural for the peak representative body, and membership is open to anyone with an interest in the efficient administration of strata schemes. Membership is therefore diverse, representing all of the major stakeholders in the strata sector, including strata managers, members of owners committees, in addition to allied professionals such as lawyers, accountants, real estate and on-site managers.

### Statement of Support

As the peak industry association for strata community management, **we are supportive overall of the direction of these measures**, and their attempt to simplify the current legislative requirements for selling or disposing of unclaimed goods, reducing the time and burden of those that are in possession.

In addition to our broad support, we would like to add the following comments to the discussion undertaken as part of the consultation.

#### 1. Collection period before goods become 'unclaimed goods' and 'Notice of intent to dispose of goods'

SCA (SA/NT) suggests the retention of the current period of 42 days, but that there is no requirement for the second notice retained.

The result would be that the first (and only) notice becomes a combined notice of collection and notice of sale.

As a second preference, SCA (SA/NT) would support a shorter period apply to each, such as 14 days for the notice of collection and 30 days for the notice of sale.

*Recommendation: Retain the current period of 42 days' notice with no second notice requirement.*

#### 2. Method of service for private notices

SCA (SA/NT) is supportive of the push to modernise by including email or text communication into private notices, and is happy to advise on how this is best done in the strata management space if required.

### **3. Public notice requirement and Personal Property and Security Register**

SCA (SA/NT) agrees that the public notice requirement should be dropped for all and a PPSR search required for Scale 3 motor vehicles.

Similarly, SCA (SA/NT) would propose consideration of requirement to place a notice of A4 size on the goods if they remain in a public place.

### **4. Scales of value**

SCA (SA/NT) believes the scale should increase and be able to be adjusted by Regulation.

SCA (SA/NT) proposed new scale:

**Scale 1** - \$2,000 or less

**Scale 2** – between \$2,000 - \$20,000

**Scale 3** - \$20,00 or more.

### **5. Methods of sale or disposal**

SCA (SA/NT) agrees that public auctions should not be a requirement. Similarly, SCA (SA/NT) is supportive of the suggestion to take away the requirement to notify the police.

### **6. Separate provisions for disposal of special categories of goods**

If a special provision is put in place for personal documents, it should only apply where the person in possession of unclaimed goods is aware of the personal documents. Otherwise this may require the person in possession to look through cartons and cartons of paper files to identify if any personal documents are present.

### **7. Record keeping**

Record keeping requirements should only be applicable for Scale 3 (as outlined in our submission above).

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this review. If you have any further questions or concerns relating to our feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out once again.

Sincerely,

Michael Haines

**SCA (SA/NT) President**