

Mike & Rita Shawcross

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SUBMISSION: re. The reversal of Body Corporate levies agreed to by Premier Campbell Newman, up for discussion in Parliament 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

This submission is made by Mike & Rita Shawcross – Surfers Paradise unit owner – full address above

We are a full time working couple trying to make ends meet and now have to live with the added stress and anxiety waiting to find out if the Premier and the Newman government will change the laws to everyone paying equal body corporate fees.

Clearly the whole situation does not make sense. For years we paid the same body corporate \$ 6,800 per year as the penthouses. The penthouse is at least 3 times the size of our unit, has its own private courtyard, has extra car spaces, has private key entry in the lift for extra security and has the most spectacular view. We in turn are on the [REDACTED] floor and have only 1 car space, so as you can imagine we were relieved approx a year ago when fees reverted back to the original schedule, the schedule it should be, the higher and the bigger your unit the more fees you pay.

We don't begrudge penthouse owners for what they have but let's be fair. If they can afford to buy a penthouse they certainly can afford higher body corporate fees.

Body Corporate fees should always be based on the floor space and level, how is it fair that our pensioner neighbour [REDACTED] who lives in the [REDACTED] floor facing the road pays the same body corporate fees as the penthouse. [REDACTED] has no water views and only 1 car space just like everyone else in the building. She lives alone, can barely pay for her rates & water and is expected to pay the same amount as the penthouse, can you see how grossly unfair this is?

If we rent our unit out after commission we would end up with \$ 360 per week, minus the proposed body corporate fees of \$140 / week. In comparison the Penthouse would rent out for \$1000 – 1500 per week with the same Body Corporate fee deduction. How can that be fair and just ?

Please Mr Newman, you need to stop this amendment proceeding! What exactly is in it for the government? Do they want to line the pockets of the already rich penthouse owners? Unless the majority of them are penthouse owners we fail to understand their motivation.

Yours faithfully

Mike & Rita Shawcross