

# Selecting the right Strata Manager

Luke Downie Realmark

# Agenda

What you can delegate to a strata manager—and what you can't

- Key traits of reliable, high-performing strata managers
- How to evaluate service inclusions and red flags
- Questions every council should be asking
- A practical look at reviewing the Management Authority

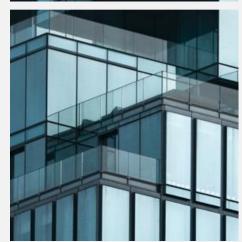


# Delegation

#### Section 143

- A Strata Company can delegate scheme functions to a Strata Manager.
- A Strata Manager cannot be authorized to
  - Authorise a person to perform a scheme function other than agent, employee or contractor of the Strata Manager
  - Determine contributions
  - Enter an alternate Strata Manager contract
  - Terminate a contract for service under section 115
  - Commence proceedings
  - Authorise use of Common Seal
  - Authorise a person to sign on behalf of CoO or Strata Company
  - Perform Scheme Functions ruled out in the Regulations
- Management Authority must outline Scheme Functions the Strata Manager can perform.
  - Can contain conditions











#### **Scheme Functions**

#### Commonly delegated to a Strata Manager

- Assist in Insurance Function (S97)
  - Placement
  - Claims
  - Communication
- Financial Management
  - Assist with Establish Fund Set Income & Expenditure. (S100)
  - Keep accounting record & prepare statement (S101)
  - Assist with Budget (\$102)
  - Collection

- Keep Records (S104)
  - Correspondence
  - Scheme Documents
  - Minutes
  - Notices Leases
  - Contracts
- Provision of information (S107 – S110)
  - Assist with provision of information



- Assist with Bylaws
  - Compliance by SC
  - Enforcement of others
  - •
- Keep & Maintain Roll (S105)



### **Other Functions**

Outside of Scheme functions other functions commonly delegated

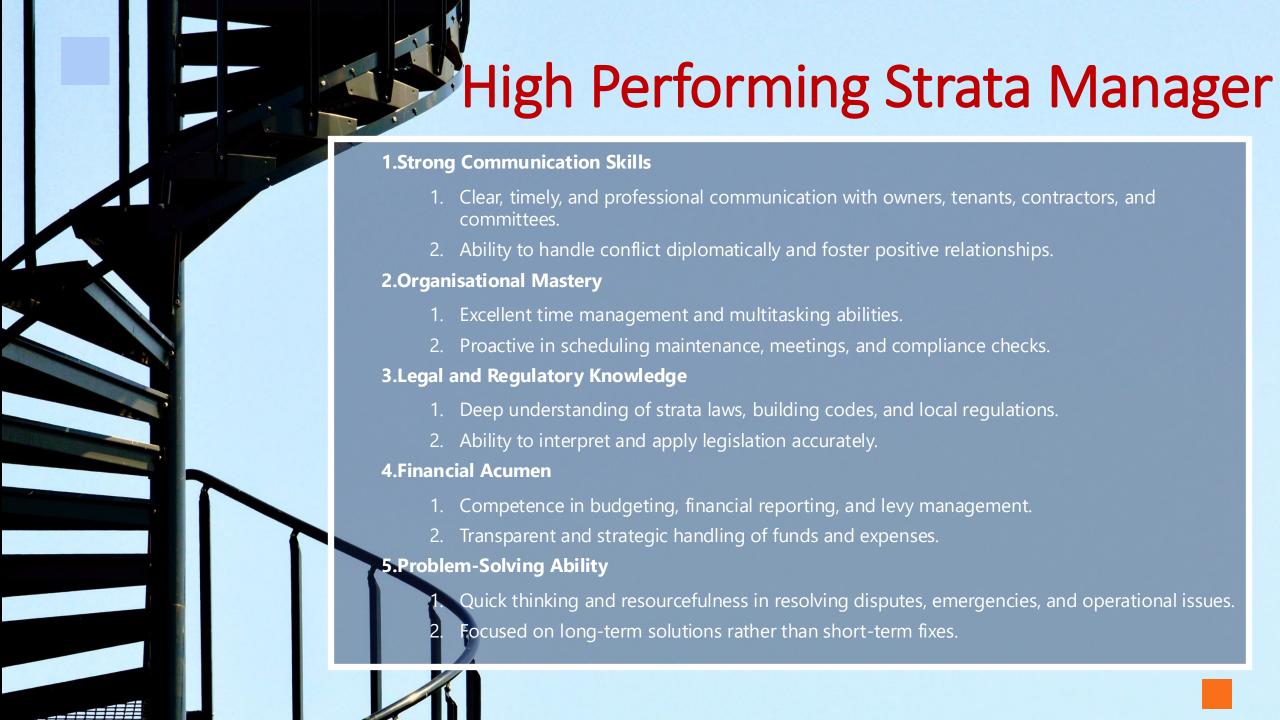
- Assist with General Meetings
- Assist with CoO Meetings
- Statutory support & Guidance
- Assist with Upkeep & Maintenance of Common Property
  - Tender / quote process
  - Work Orders
  - Engagement of Specialty Services



- Agreed functions can be inclusive or additional in cost
- Strata Managers have limitations
  - Not necessarily subject experts
  - Should not be utilized or expected to perform outside their knowledge, experience or expertise.
  - Are administrators for the Strata Company
- Strata Managers do not replace
  - Lawyers
  - Project Managers
  - Subject matter experts
  - Contractors & Service providers







## **Evaluate**

- Base Management Fee
  - Cheapest isn't always the best
  - What functions are included
- Schedule B additional charges
  - What's not included
  - Process for charging
- Insurance Commissions
  - Included / not included
  - Does base vary when no commission
- General
  - Annual Increase
  - Contract Assignment

CULARS			
Services	Schedule A Standard Services in conjunction w Additional, Ad-hoc/ Special Services and Statu		
rd Services Fee	\$	per month, inclusive of GST.	
	Equivalent to \$	ре	er annum. <i>Se</i> e
f Contract	Start Date		End Date
ntract will end at the End Date mentioned above. The Strata Mana			
ny with the option to enter a new contract prior to the expiration of t			
ment Frequency	Monthly in advance		
justment Date	Adjusted on 1 <sup>st</sup> July annually		
justment Rate	3 % Increment on Fee Adjustment Date, unle		

Consider a tender process RFI and RFT



# The Right Questions



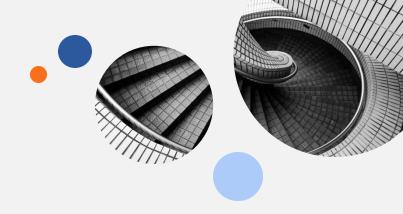
- How many lots does our Strata Manager look after?
- What KPI's are in place for Strata Managers?
- What should we expect in terms of response times and updates?
- How many years of experience does our Strata Manager have?
- Tell us about our Strata Managers strengths and weaknesses

- What level of support will our strata manager have?
- What level of transparency is provided to the Council of Owners and how much of this is available in real time?
- Is your organization a member of SCAWA?
- What does staff turnover look like for your organization and how is this handled?
- What is your complaints handling process?
- Can you provide phone references for your organization and the Strata Manager?



# The Right Questions

- Does your organization have any statutory auditing requirements?
- What software's does your organization use and what is the benefits we will receive from these?
- What is your expectations from our council of owner's?
- What does compliance management look like for your organization?
- Tell us about how you will assist us with both asset and contract management?













- Term is important change is inevitable.
- Disclosures.
- Strata Company Representative.
- Fee reviews and Increases.
- Schedule B's.
- Education Qualifications.
- Pl Insurance.
- Liability & Indemnity.
- Contract Assignment.
- Dispute Resolution.



### Remember

The relationship between a Strata Company's Council of Owners and the Strata Manager should be based on a partnership with a common goal of achieving the best outcomes for all owners in relation to maintain and protecting the value of what is common property

Luke Downie

Idownie@realmark.au

