

## KEY FACTS SHEET – RESIDENTIAL STRATA EXISTING OWNER POLICY

Thank you for your interest in obtaining a title insurance policy for your residential strata property with Stewart Title Limited. This Key Facts Sheet provides you with some general information about the coverage available in our policy.

Title insurance is a unique form of insurance. It protects your ownership interest against losses incurred as a result of undetected or unknown defects that affect your registered interest in the title to your property. With certain exceptions, these covered title defects must exist as of the policy date, but be unknown to you. Title insurance continues to protect your ownership from the day of settlement to the day you sell your property. Should you purchase a policy it will be customised to reflect the details of your particular real estate transaction.

### Important features of Stewart Title’s residential strata existing owner title insurance include:

- The policy covers title risk and is not, nor should it be used as a substitute for home buildings/contents insurance.
- The policy insures your ownership interest in your property for as long as you own your property for a one-time premium payable when the policy is ordered or after the Policy Order Confirmation has been issued
- The coverage will also protect anyone who inherits your property or your spouse or child if you transfer your property to your spouse or child for nominal consideration.
- The amount of insurance is the purchase price of your property and will increase as the value of your property increases up to a maximum of 200%. The amount of insurance decreases by any amounts (other than legal fees and associated costs) that we pay to cover a claim.
- In this Policy, your Strata Unit means the Strata Unit outlined in Schedule A and includes any car space, balcony, garden, terrace or storage area identified in the strata plan as attaching to your Strata Unit and any interest in the common property as defined by the relevant Laws in the jurisdiction where your Strata Unit is located.

### Your Cover

Subject to the payment of the Policy premium and abiding by the terms and conditions outlined in the Policy and relying upon the information disclosed to us, we will provide the following Cover in relation to the Covered Risks:

#### Actual Loss

#### Section 1.1 of the Policy

Actual Loss is a defined term in the Policy and means “*the difference between the value of your Strata Unit unaffected by the Covered Risk that is the substance of a claim and the value of the Strata Unit affected by the Covered Risk that is the substance of a claim. Any determination of Actual Loss which is required under this Policy shall not take into account any real or perceived loss of opportunity or loss of expectation of future development of the Strata Unit*”.

In practical terms this assessment of “Actual Loss” requires an appraisal of the difference between:

- a. the value of your Strata Unit *unaffected* by the Covered Risk - what you *actually paid* for the property not taking into account that the property was affected by a Covered Risk; and
- b. the value of the Strata Unit *affected* by the Covered Risk - the market value of the property taking into account that the property was affected by the Covered Risk.

The difference between a and b above will be your Actual Loss.

The relevant timing of this assessment of Actual Loss will depend on whether claim is brought in respect of a Covered Risk under Section 2.1 of the Policy or Section 2.2 of the Policy.

As all Covered Risks under Section 2.1 of the Policy relate to risks which existed or occurred prior to or as at the Policy Date then any assessment of Actual Loss which is required under Section 2.1 of the Policy will be assessed as at the Policy Date.

As all Covered Risks under Section 2.2 of the Policy relate to risks which existed or occurred after the Policy Date then any assessment of Actual Loss which is required under Section 2.2 of the Policy will be assessed as at the date you discover the Covered Risk.

To summarise:

- For Covered Risks under Section 2.1 of the Policy your Actual Loss (if relevant) will be assessed as at the Policy Date.

For Covered Risks under section 2.2 of the Policy your Actual Loss (if relevant) will be assessed as at the date you discover the Covered Risk.

### **Example 1 – Covered Risk under Section 2.1 of the Policy**

You purchase a three-bedroom home for \$500,000 being the Policy Amount. At the time of settlement of purchase and entry into the title insurance policy (the Policy Date) you are not aware of any Covered Risks affecting the property. Six months after settlement, you receive an Enforcement Order from a Local Authority ordering you to demolish one of the bedrooms because it was built by a previous owner without approvals required by law. The unapproved bedroom existed prior to the Policy Date.

You make a claim under section 2.1 (i) of your Policy. If Actual Loss is relevant, how will Stewart Title assess your “Actual Loss”? As the claim relates to a Covered Risk under Section 2.1 of the Policy your Actual Loss will be assessed as at the Policy Date. Stewart Title will engage a licensed valuer to ascertain the difference between the value of the land purchased as a three-bedroom home (\$500,000) and the value of the land as a two-bedroom home as at the Policy Date.

The valuer determines that the market value of the land as a two-bedroom home was \$450,000 as at the Policy Date. As you paid \$500,000 for three-bedroom home, then your Actual Loss resulting from the order to demolish the third bedroom is \$50,000.

The sum of \$50,000 is the difference between:

- a. the value of your land *unaffected* by the Covered Risk as at the Policy Date - what you *actually paid* for the property not taking into account that the land was affected by a Covered Risk which was \$500,000; and
- b. the value of the land *affected* by the Covered Risk as at the Policy Date - the market value of the land taking into account that the land was affected by the Covered Risk which was \$450,000.

### **Example 2 – Covered Risk under Section 2.2 of the Policy**

The method to determine “Actual Loss” for risks which fall under section 2.2 of the Policy is different to the method to determine “Actual Loss” for risks which fall under section 2.1 of the Policy, because the Covered Risks which fall under Section 2.2 are risks which occur or come into existence after the Policy Date.

The relevant timing of any assessment of “Actual Loss” for claims brought under section 2.2 of the Policy is as at the date you discover the Covered Risk. This is because the purpose of this section of the Policy is *not* to determine the market value of the land affected by the Covered Risk as at the Policy Date. Rather, it is to arrive at a determination of the loss at the time the risk arises and is discovered by you.

For example, you purchase a three-bedroom home for \$500,000, being the Policy Amount, as an investment property. At the time of settlement of purchase (the Policy Date) you are not aware of any Covered Risks. In fact, no Covered Risks exist as at the Policy Date.

However, five years after you purchase the property you become the victim of a real estate fraud whereby a fraudster impersonates you and sells your property to an innocent third party. You lose your title to the property.

You make a claim under section 2.2 (a) of the Policy. How will Stewart Title assess your Actual Loss? As the claim relates to a Covered Risk under section 2.2 of the Policy your Actual Loss will be assessed as at the date you discover the Covered Risk. Stewart Title will engage a licensed valuer to ascertain the market value of the

land as at the date you discovered you had lost your title due to fraud. The valuer determines that the market value of the property was \$750,000 as at the date you discovered the Covered Risk.

Your Actual Loss is therefore \$750,000. Your Policy Amount is \$500,000. Are you covered for this difference?

Please refer to the section entitled 'Inflation Cover'.

## Authorised Expense

## Section 1.2 of the Policy

Authorised Expenses is a defined term in the Policy and means “*any costs, expenses and Legal Fees incurred as a result of a claim payable under this Policy and pre-approved in writing by us and which are incurred prior to our payment or resolution of the claim reduced by any Input Tax Credit to which you are entitled in respect of such costs, expenses and Legal Fees*”.

Section 1.2 of the Policy provides that Stewart Title

*‘insures you in respect of Authorised Expenses which are incurred by you or which we agree to pay or are required to pay under the Policy as a result of a Covered Risk up to the Policy Amount’.*

Authorised Expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- expert reports such as:
  - identification survey reports;
  - structural engineer reports; and
  - building code compliance reports.
- rectification or rebuilding costs, including demolition costs;
- legal fees and other professional fees such as planning, architectural and designer fees;
- Council lodgment fees for plans, development applications and other permits.

Unlike Actual Loss under Section 2.1 of the Policy, which is assessed as at the Policy Date, the relevant timing for assessment of Authorised Expenses is at the time the Authorised Expenses are actually incurred or charged by the relevant provider/authority.

### Example 1 – Rectification Costs

You purchase a three-bedroom home for \$500,000 being the Policy Amount. At the time of settlement of purchase (the Policy Date) you are not aware of any Covered Risks affecting the property. Six months after settlement, you receive an Enforcement Order from a Local Authority ordering you to rectify one of the bedrooms because it was built by a previous owner without approvals required by law and does not comply with Council’s requirements. The unapproved bedroom existed prior to the Policy Date.

You make a claim under section 2.1 (i) of the Policy. Quotes are obtained which indicate the rectification costs are \$25,000. How will your claim in respect of the rectification costs be assessed? Stewart Title will pay or reimburse the necessary rectification costs (providing the costs have been pre-approved by Stewart Title in writing) as an Authorised Expense.

If plans or permits are required to be lodged, then the fees charged by the Council for lodging those plans or permits would also be covered as an Authorised Expense.

### Example 2 – Compliance Reports

In the example provided above, it may be appropriate to demonstrate to the Council that the unapproved bedroom complies with all building codes and standards and is structurally sound. If Council is satisfied that the unapproved bedroom satisfies its requirements, then no rectification costs would be required and there will be no Actual Loss.

In these circumstances, Stewart Title will pay or reimburse the costs of obtaining the reports (providing the costs have been pre-approved by Stewart Title in writing) as an Authorised Expense.

### Example 3 – Demolition Costs

In the example provided above, it may be a requirement of Council, after obtaining the necessary expert reports, that the unapproved bedroom must be demolished completely if not rectified.

In these circumstances, Stewart Title will pay or reimburse the necessary demolition costs (providing the costs have been pre-approved by Stewart Title in writing) as an Authorised Expense. This would be in addition to the costs of the reports and would also be in addition to the payment of any Actual Loss which is required to be paid under section 1.1 of the Policy.

### Defence of Title

### Section 1.3 of the Policy

Defence of title costs are covered under Section 1.3 of the Policy which provides:

*“We may defend any challenge to your Title, including that part of any proceedings or court case, which is based on a Covered Risk under this Policy. If we decide to defend a challenge to your Title we will pay necessary costs, legal fees and expenses incurred in that defence. We will not pay such costs, fees and expenses incurred by you unless they are approved in writing by us before they are incurred. We will not pay for any part of costs, fees and expenses in a matter that does not relate to a Covered Risk or that relates to a matter that is excepted or excluded from Cover under this Policy. We may decide to not defend or continue to defend your Title, and may alternatively exercise one or more of the options outlined in clause 6. We may also end our defence of your Title by exercising one or more of the options outlined in clause 6.”*

One of the immediate consequences of a claim being brought under a Covered Risk is that you may be required to respond to a notice, compliance or building order or some other enforcement process initiated by a third party against you. One component of Cover under the Policy which is intended to address this situation is the “defence of title” Cover under section 1.3 of the Policy.

Section 1.3 relevantly provides that Stewart Title may “defend any challenge to your Title, including that part of any proceedings or court case, which is based on a Covered Risk under this Policy. If we decide to defend a challenge to your Title, we will pay necessary costs, legal fees and expenses incurred in that defence.

In some circumstances, the claim may be successfully resolved by the ‘defence of title’ Cover, particularly if the enforcement action has no legal basis or there are other legal issues which are identified which give rise to a withdrawal of the enforcement action by a third party. In some circumstances, Stewart may decide not to defend a challenge to your Title. If Stewart decides not to defend a challenge to your Title, Stewart will instead exercise one or more of the options outlined in clause 6 of the Policy. For example, if there are little or no prospects of successfully defending a challenge to your Title, we may negotiate a settlement or take other action that will protect you.

Unlike Actual Loss under Section 2.1 of the Policy, which is assessed as at the Policy Date, the relevant timing for assessment of any “defence of title” costs which are incurred under section 1.3 is at the time the defence of title costs are incurred by you.

### Example – Defence of Title Costs

You purchase a property and settlement occurs without incident. At the time of settlement of purchase (the Policy Date) you are not aware of any Covered Risks affecting the property.

Immediately after moving in your neighbour issues you with a demand that you transfer a portion of your land to the neighbour because the previous owner of your land made a promise that the neighbour could have the land in question. The neighbour now seeks to enforce that promise against you as the new owner.

You make a claim under section 2.1 (e) and 2.1 (f) of your Policy (which provides cover in circumstances where “someone else claims a right or interest over whole or part of the Strata Unit arising out of a lease, contract or an option” and “someone else claims a right of possession over whole or part of the Strata Unit who is not on the Title” respectively).

In these circumstances, Stewart Title would obtain independent legal advice in relation to the claims made by your neighbour in relation to the ownership of your land and would pay or reimburse these costs (providing the

costs have been pre-approved by Stewart Title in writing) as a Defence of Title cost under section 1.3 of the Policy.

Should it become necessary to defend any proceedings or court case brought against you in relation to the Covered Risk(s), then Stewart Title would cover the costs of such a legal defence, such as legal fees and associated expenses, as a Defence of Title cost.

## Rental Accommodation

## Section 1.4 of the Policy

Rental Accommodation costs are covered under Section 1.4 of the Policy which provides:

*If you cannot use the Strata Unit as your principal place of residence because of circumstances insured under this Policy and we have agreed to indemnify you under the terms of the Policy, you may rent a reasonably equivalent home. We will reimburse your actual rent until you are able to resume the use of the Strata Unit as your principal place of residence or until we settle your claim in accordance with our choices under the Policy (whichever is the earlier), provided that we will only reimburse you in respect of your actual rent which we consider to be necessarily and reasonably incurred by you.*

This Cover is provided in circumstances where you may be required to vacate your home or there are other reasons why you are not able to use your home as a residence because of circumstances which are insured by the Policy. If you have made a claim in respect of a Covered Risk, and Stewart Title has agreed to indemnify you under the terms of the Policy, then Stewart Title will reimburse your actual rent for alternative accommodation (providing the alternative accommodation is reasonably equivalent to your home) until you are able to resume occupation of your home or until Stewart Title settles your claim in accordance with Stewart Title's choices under the Policy (whichever is the earlier).

Stewart Title will only reimburse you in respect of your actual rent which Stewart Title considers to be necessarily and reasonably incurred by you.

Unlike Actual Loss under Section 2.1 of the Policy, which is assessed as at the Policy Date, the relevant timing for assessment of any actual rent which may be payable under Section 1.4 of the Policy will be at the time the rental costs are incurred.

### Example 1 – Alternative Rental Costs which are covered

You purchase a three-bedroom home with a kitchen extension. At the time of settlement of purchase (the Policy Date) you are not aware of any Covered Risks affecting the property. After settlement, you receive an Enforcement Order from a Local Authority ordering you to rectify or remove the kitchen extension because it was built by a previous owner without approvals required by law and does not comply with Council's requirements. The unapproved kitchen extension existed prior to the Policy Date.

You make a claim under section 2.1 (i) of your Policy. Stewart Title agrees to pay or reimburse the necessary rectification costs (providing the costs have been pre-approved by Stewart Title in writing) to bring the kitchen extension into compliance as an Authorised Expense. However, because of the extensive work required, you will have no access to the kitchen or to any running water for a period of eight (8) weeks and therefore it is necessary that you obtain alternative accommodation for eight (8) weeks.

In addition to the rectification costs which are covered as an Authorised Expense, you will be entitled under section 1.4 of your Policy to reimbursement of your reasonable rent for alternative accommodation of an equivalent three-bedroom home until the kitchen rectification works are completed and access to the kitchen and running water is resumed.

## Maximum Aggregate Amount of Cover

## Section 1.4 of the Policy

*For the avoidance of doubt, the maximum aggregate amount of Cover described in clauses 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 of this Policy shall not exceed the Policy Amount.*

This means that if your Policy Amount is \$500,000 and if we have to pay or reimburse you for Actual Loss, Authorised Expenses or Rental Accommodation or any combination of them under the Policy, the maximum total amount for all of these categories of Cover combined is \$500,000. For example, if the Actual Loss is

\$400,000, the Authorised Expenses are \$100,000 and the Rent Accommodation is \$50,000 you will not be entitled to more than \$500,000 in respect of these categories of Cover.

**Inflation Cover**

**Section 1.5 of the Policy**

Section 1.5 of the Policy provides an automatic increase of the Policy Amount in line with increases in the fair market value of your land after the Policy Date up to a maximum of 200% of the Policy Amount. Section 1.5 of the Policy states that:

*Market conditions and inflation may increase the value of your Strata Unit. For the purposes of a claim under Section 2.2 of the Policy only, the maximum amount of your insurance cover increases in line with increases in the fair market value of the Strata Unit after the Policy Date, up to a maximum of 200% of the Policy Amount shown in Schedule A of the Policy. This added Cover is provided without additional premium.*

*If you have made improvements which increase the value of the Strata Unit above 200% of the Policy Amount and you wish to increase your Policy Amount for the purposes of a claim under Section 2.2, then provided you do not have any unresolved claims which you have made under the Policy, you may contact our office and an additional premium may apply.*

*For the avoidance of doubt, this added Cover affects only the maximum amount of your insurance cover for a claim under Section 2.2 of the Policy. It does not affect any assessment of Actual Loss under clause 2.1 of the Policy. Any assessment of Actual Loss which is required under clause 2.1 will be determined as at the Policy Date. Increases in the fair market value of your Strata Unit after the Policy Date will not affect any assessment of Actual Loss under clause 2.1.*

Applying this provision to the scenario outlined under Actual Loss Example 2, your Policy Amount has automatically increased in line with market conditions and inflation up to a maximum of 200% of the Policy Amount (which is \$1,000,000 (being 200% of the Policy Amount of \$500,000). On this basis, even though the Policy Amount is stated as being \$500,000 you are fully covered for the loss of \$750,000 because of the inflation cover provided in section 1.5 of the Policy.

**Key Covered Risks (policy coverage provisions, conditions and limits) include\*:**

**\*You must review your actual policy for full coverage details as the information below is being provided in general terms only.** Your policy may include additional exceptions related to specific issues affecting your property. It may also include additional endorsements.

Event/Cover	Some examples of special conditions, exclusions or limits that apply to the events/covers (see other policy documentation for details)
<p><b>Enforcement Order issued by a Local Authority in relation to Unapproved Alterations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cover is capped at \$160,000 per claim.</li> <li>▪ Cover for unapproved alterations <b>does not</b> extend to structures or building materials which comply with a building or development approval but does not comply with applicable building codes or standards.</li> <li>▪ For claims under \$25,000, we will pay the costs of removing, upgrading, rectifying or rebuilding the structure (or part of the structure) as an Authorised Expense. For claims greater than \$25,000, we have the option of removing the structures and paying you your Actual Loss.</li> <li>▪ Not covered for unapproved boundary walls or boundary fences.</li> <li>▪ Not covered for poor workmanship, structural condition, dilapidation or infestation of the property.</li> <li>▪ Not covered for external cladding on strata buildings which does not comply with building or development approvals and/or applicable building codes or standards.</li> <li>▪ This cover does not apply where you initiate, instigate or encourage enforcement action by the Local Authority – refer to Policy exclusions for full details.</li> <li>▪ Enforcement Order is defined in the Policy – please refer to the Policy for more information.</li> </ul>

<b>Fraud, Forgery &amp; Identity Theft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covered for loss up to the Policy Amount as adjusted for inflation under clause 1.5 of the policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary &amp; Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covered as a defect that affects the title to your Strata Unit.</li> <li>▪ This cover does not apply where you initiate, instigate or encourage enforcement action by an adjoining owner of your Strata Unit – refer to Policy exclusions for full details.</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of Legal Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not covered for any lack of a right to a secondary access point to the Strata Unit.</li> </ul>
<b>Errors, affectations and proposals that would have been disclosed in a Local Authority Search or a search of the Public Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not covered for environmental contaminants or hazardous waste, mine subsidence, native title claims or matters not affecting title to the Strata Unit.</li> </ul>

## **Other Matters to Consider**

### **Standard exclusions include:**

- Environmental matters, including but not limited to, mold, asbestos, termites, infestations, contamination, abandoned oil wells, water leakage, water quality or quantity.
- Native claims or claims arising directly or indirectly from legislation with respect to the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Risks that you created, allowed or agreed to.
- Risks that are known to you, but not to Stewart Title, on the policy date.
- Matters that first occur after your policy date (unless those matters are covered under Clause 2.2 of the policy).
- Physical/structural conditions or defects related to poor workmanship, the wear and tear or condition and repair of the property, including infestation and dilapidation.
- Non-compliance with applicable building codes or standards\*.
- Non-compliant external cladding on strata buildings.
- Certain risks where you initiate, instigate or encourage enforcement action by the Local Authority and/or an adjoining property owner – refer to Policy exclusions for full details.

### **Cancellation period:**

If, within 14 days of receiving your policy or the settlement of your property purchase (whichever is the latter) and you have not made a claim, you decide you no longer want your policy, you may request cancellation of your policy. We will refund all premium paid for cover under the policy less an administration charge of \$50.00. After this period, you cannot cancel your policy.

If you have obtained this policy by mistake, please let us know as soon as possible.

### **For more information:**

Should you have questions about your policy, its cover, and exclusions and exceptions, please contact us on **1800 300 440** or visit our website at [www.stewartau.com](http://www.stewartau.com) so that we may assist you.

**Attention: This Key Facts Sheet highlights some of the conditions, exclusions and limits in respect of our standard Residential Strata Existing Owner Policy and is intended only to be a guide. The content in this document is furnished for informational use only and should not be construed as a commitment by Stewart Title. It does not form part of your Policy or insurance contract with us. Changes are periodically made to the information in this document; these changes will be incorporated in new editions of this publication and Stewart Title may make modifications to the content as described in this document at any time. Stewart Title assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or inaccuracies that may appear in the content of this document. You must carefully review your actual Policy and any Endorsements, Schedules and other policy documentation for all the conditions, exclusions and limitations that will specifically limit or exclude cover under your Policy.**

**\*Please Note:** the exclusion relating to non-compliance with building codes and standards does not apply if notice of the non-compliance appears in Public Records as at the Policy Date or if the existence of the non-compliance would have been disclosed by a Local Authority Search of your Strata Unit as at the Policy Date. Please refer to the Policy exclusions for more information.