

# Ask questions on fees



**SPEAK UP:** Rob Honeycombe says buyers get what they pay for with body corporate fees.

BODY corporate fees are inevitable when buying an apartment or townhouse but they should not be a determining factor when buying, says Bees Nees City Realty director Rob Honeycombe.

Mr Honeycombe said buyers really do get what they pay for and should ask where the money is going. "Body corporate fees don't make a profit – the money's either going to current running expenses or it's being put away for other major

expenses but buyers do have a right to know how it's going to be spent," Mr Honeycombe said.

"If the fees are cheap it could be there are no amenities and that's OK if you don't want them, certainly don't pay for them but if you do want them, the fees are probably going to be higher."

He said potential buyers had every right to ask where body corporate fees were allocated but how much they were willing to pay was really up to the buyer.

"It's not someone else running the place, it's up to the owners to figure out where the money should be best spent and to budget accordingly."

"A body corporate is only as strong as its owners who volunteer their time to be involved in the committee and attend the meetings – if you're not prepared to spend your time contributing, you've got to give people who are doing it a break, but if you have a different view, then speak up."