



**BRRAG**

**Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc.**

*“To provide an effective voice for the people of Belmont”*

15 June 2019

Duncan Ord  
Director General of Dept of Local Govt & Communities  
140 William Street  
Perth WA 6000

Mr Ord

We are having difficulty obtaining a copy of the Employment Contracts of the CEO and Director of Statutory and Community Services, at the City of Belmont. On the advice of other ratepayer groups who have had some difficulty obtaining the same information, we have been advised that you will be able to obtain it for us.

On the 29 April, I attended the City of Belmont with the Vice President of the Belmont Residents and Ratepayers Action Group Inc (BRRAG), Janet Gee and asked if we could have a copy. The staff at the front counter sought advice. Ms Gee and myself were lucky to have the personal attention of one of the other Directors and a senior staff member. We were advised we had to put it in writing.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April an email (attached) was sent to Robin Garrett formally requesting this information as he was the Director we had spoken to the day before.

A response (attached) was received on 21 May from the Executive Manager People and Organisational Development. The request had been denied on the basis they believe the request in contrary to S5.95

We wrote to CEO John Christie on 22 May again requesting a copy of this information (see attached). No formal response has been given to us, however at the last council meeting, I asked regarding the contract and was told I would not be getting it.

It is extremely disappointing that we have legislation that it would seem is being flaunted at the City of Belmont. I know of other councils that have been forthcoming with a request of this nature, even if it has been on the push of the powers that be. Quite frankly what is the purpose of having any legislation if it is worthless? Is any new legislation going to be any better?

I request you intervene with some urgency on this matter. I would like to think that as Director you can do something about behaviour like this. I have obtained correspondence from a CEO of another locality on this same question from another resident. This CEO advised he investigated the rights of the public to obtain this information and both your department and WALGA had advised that it had to be given on request. He even refunded the money paid under FOI.

As our organisation represents the residents, please be advised that this correspondence and any response is likely to go up on our website. We like to be very transparent with the public and this is part of the paper trail in trying to obtain information that the Act permits us to have.

I look forward to a satisfactory response.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG