



**BRRAG**

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

*"To provide an effective voice for the people of Belmont"*

24 October 2019

Acting CEO Juliette Hammah  
City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Juliette

Your response to our letter is totally unsatisfactory. I keep hearing that the City of Belmont has discretion on almost everything in the planning department.

DFES has advised me that the investigation into 47 Hardey Road will take approximately six months to complete. They have also advised that in the event that any contamination is found, remedial action will need to be taken in respect of surrounding properties.

As far as BRRAG is concerned and I am sure the residents of Belmont, particularly those that live close by will not accept your response. You have a responsibility to the residents of Belmont knowing there is a potential problem to act accordingly. You are leaving the City wide open to potential litigation further down the track as you are aware there is a possible problem and it would seem are oblivious to your obligations to mitigate loss.

PFAS is a serious issue and it is not easy to get rid of. It can travel long distances and get into waterways. We already have issues near the airport as you are aware. The City takes legal action and prosecutes people with criminal conviction over asbestos dumping but lets this slide. What is going on here?

You may not be aware but the problem with PFAS is so serious that Erin Brockovich is in Australia at the moment because of the health issues attributed to exposure to this contaminant. These chemicals have been identified worldwide as emerging contaminants, because they don't break down in the environment, have potential to bioaccumulate in plants and animals.. However, because these compounds are persistent, human exposure should be minimised as a precaution. You will also know these chemical pollutants are highly mobile in water/ground water and will tend to travel in plumes within the water table.

I am looking to Mayor Marks and Cr Ryan who represents the East Ward and Cr Wolff in particular who are our Environmental councillors to act on this. Residents need to know that this property has been cleared of any PFAS and any development will not be spreading contamination to other properties.

As part of the assessment process with respect to development approval of the application for 49 Hardey Road regard has to be given to the following:

*Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*

*(n) the amenity of the locality including the following — (i) **environmental impacts** of the development;*

In this instance you have been made aware of a possible environmental risk. The property is adjacent to a property that has been identified as a possible site for the contaminant PFAS. On this point alone until an environmental study and report is done you are unable to say there is no environmental impact.

If councillors are going to let this pass and do nothing, it is only fair the public are made aware of the possible risks that have not been ruled out. I can understand why it is best not to raise unnecessary concern until more is known, but it appears on the basis of your response, the City of Belmont could not give a damn about any potential risks to its residents.

The city of Belmont, has in place regulations concerning the building of new horse stables where a limestone layer is required to help mitigate the flow of pollutants into the ground water / water table. The city is also aware of the various polluted sites where the polluted ground water plumes are mobile and monitor the flow and direction of these flows.

I look forward to a response from the councillors that have specifically been named. You are elected by the residents to act on their behalf. As a resident of the East Ward myself your response will be much awaited.

Please be advised this letter as well as any response will be made available to the Residents of Belmont on the BRRAG website.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG