



**BRRAG**

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

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

6 October 2019

The CEO  
City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Mr Christie

Last Thursday residents of Belmont through various facebook pages were made aware of the disappearance of elections signs that belonged to East Ward candidate, Ian Glading. Approximately thirty signs were removed. Some of these signs were on private property.

According to Mr Glading they were removed without warning. The initial thought from residents was that some thug had gone around removing them. There was no contact from the City of Belmont to advise Ian that they had been removed them and why. Mr Glading discovered via CCTV footage that a vehicle belonging to the City of Belmont was was parked and a staff member removing them. Later it was identified as the Ranger.

In the event the CCTV footage had not provided information as to what had happened, Mr Glading may well have reported this “theft” as a genuine police complaint. He was certainly advised on facebook pages to do so. Given the City of Belmont has a dreadful crime rate with limited resources as it is, should our police be wasting time on something like this, instead of dealing with real crime? A phone call after the removal from staff would have ensured this time wasting would not have occurred.

On this basis we would like questions answered on behalf of the residents:

1. Why did the City of Belmont remove the signs themselves as opposed to ringing Mr Glading and asking him to do so?
2. How much did it cost the City of Belmont to remove the signs themselves as thirty signs is a lot to go looking for?
3. Why were other signs left in the same area and why are other signs still in areas that are not private property?
4. Why were signs removed from private property?

Mr Glading received a copy of Policy 12 sent to him after he discovered what happened to his signs. This is a complex document for even someone trained in planning to understand. It appears to me in Table A referred to that Mr Gladings signs dont fit any of those 17 listed. Therefore please respond to the following:

5. Which section of the document relates to elections signs or signs of that type?
6. Given the complexities of the document, on what date prior to the removal of the signs did you reference the section to Mr Glading and other candidates. Whilst the document was

reference in your letter of 12 September, I can only assume you omitted the relevant section relating to candidates and elections signs and this must have been subsequently advised ?  
7. When or do you intend giving this property back to Mr Glading?

In the past BRRAG has written to council regarding heavy handed tactics that are used with some residents. We previously cited instances that were very public and in our view brought disrepute to the City of Belmont. We have also raised questions at Public Question Time regarding any policy you may have to deal with certain issues of residents as opposed to heavy handling and court. One would hope that you decide against prosecution or fines for this given all the circumstances. I am sure all of the outlined questions are reasonable and would certainly be asked in any future action that may be taken.

Given that Mr Glading appears to be a serious contender against our current Mayor in the East Ward, had this been anyone else would it have been handled differently? Mr Glading has provided the attached photo. His poster was alongside this one. The rangers took Mr Glading's but left this behind which has subsequently been confirmed to me by another resident who saw it.

Please be advised this letter and any response will be put on the BRRAG website for transparency.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG