



**BRRAG**

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

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

9 March 2020

CEO  
City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Mr Christie

On the 3 February 2020, we wrote to you asking the costs associated with legal representation at SAT on 20 December 2019 and 24 January 2020. We had previously asked for these costs and were advised the invoices had not been received. These costs and a reminder were again brought up in the BRRAG preamble of Public Question Time at the February OCM. We are still waiting for your response.

As a result of your recent comments in the Southern Gazette concerning legal costs for the City of Belmont, particularly the reference to the Saldanah case costs, (which we have been unable to get a proper response to, as your claim it cant be discussed due to it going through court, even though we were clear we only wanted costs not to discuss the case) the following question was directed to the Mayor:

***Are you Mr Mayor willing to put forward a motion asking that the CEO investigate the cost factors, potential savings as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the City employing a lawyer on staff instead of using firms like McCleods which would appear to charge considerably more. A staff lawyer would be available during working hours all week which may well benefit various areas as well as save money which could perhaps be spent on security for residents. The Mayor responded that he would not be prepared to put forward a motion of this nature.***

As a result of the Mayor not being willing to get you to look further into this, please respond to the following:

- How much has the City paid for external legal advice, including costs such as travel and entertainment in the past three years?
- How much was paid individually to each legal firm that was used?
- Who is the City employee who is the primary source of any legal advice?
- How many hearings (directions, final hearings/trials) at the State Administrative Tribunal, Magistrates Court and Supreme Court has the City attended and/or required some form of representation (Court Attendances) in the last three years?
- .At how many of those Court Attendances was an external legal service provider in attendance/providing advice and what was the cost of their attendances and advice on those matters?

- How many prosecutions were considered and progressed and were external legal services provided? If so how much was spent on these legal services for prosecutions?

Please be advised this letter and any response provided will be available on the BRRAG website for the residents of Belmont for the purpose of transparency.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
President BRRAG