



BRRAG

Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc.

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

27 March 2020

Dear Councillor Mayor and Councillors

Re: Freezing of Rates

I received a response to my email from both Cr Wolff and Mayor Marks. Other than disagreeing with the email Mayor Marks had no other suggestion or comment. Cr Wolff however advised, “Council could come up with a better solution with more immediate and effective impact”

At the last council meeting we specifically asked how much money in this financial year has been saved due to the cancellation of events. Of course events are primarily for the Residents. The response for memory was around \$120 000.

We are asking that the surplus event budget figure (as provided at the council meeting), is immediately distributed to the ratepayers of Belmont by way of cash bonus. This would be using the money that is left over and was allocated for the purpose of events and give immediate relief to residents in this time of great hardship for all of them. This would be in keeping with Cr Wolff's suggestion and therefore something one would hope he would support and encourage.

In addition to this financial relief we would like to have a rate freeze for the next financial year, which is apparently something councillors agreed to, but were not prepared to formalise by way of motion requested by Cr Cayoun and which the Mayor refused to allow to be put up.

The Residents of the City of Belmont need to see strong leadership and decisive action from our Councillors. All parts of the economy are taking a hit right now, people are losing jobs and times are hard for many people. Mayor Marks should be leading our councillors to act now not adopt the wait and see attitude as it would seem is the preferred option from the Administration. The City of Belmont should be run by the councillors who cost the ratepayer a nice chunk of money, well in excess of \$500 000 a year with all the perks. The council delegation to Adachi cost the ratepayer over \$30 000. Our council should not be run by the Administration which due to the lack of leadership by the Mayor, appears to be the case.

The Councillors Lounge and Meal allowances should also have surplus money for this financial year. Given the new rules for gatherings and the likelihood of them becoming even more stringent, surplus funds from both of these areas should also go back to the ratepayer in their time of need. This is money spent on councillors which add to the costs associated with having councillors.

We ask that the City of Belmont act with some urgency on this.

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

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands
President BRRAG

