



**BRRAG**

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

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

20 August 2020

Mayor Marks  
City of Belmont

Dear Mayor Marks

At the Agenda Briefing forum of 18 August 2020, there appeared to be significant discussion which delayed the start of the meeting until 7.08pm due to the request of submissions and deputations from members of BRRAG.

Having checked the Standing Orders given a deputation by Paul Hitt was disallowed on the basis he did not have personal interest I seek clarification on the following.

City of Belmont Standing Orders

6.6 Deputations

(1) A person or group directly affected by a matter on the agenda paper and wishing to be received as a deputation by the Council is to either– (a) apply, before the meeting, to the CEO for approval; or (b) with the approval of the Presiding Member, at the meeting, address the Council.

Mr Hitt wanted to do a deputation relating to an item regarding a TPO. You disallowed it on the basis he could not do it as BRRAG and you decided he did not have enough personal interest in the matter.

You allowed another party I believe he identified himself as an organisation representing a developer regarding the item on the DA9.

Under the Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc Objects of the Association it reads as follows:

3 (1) i) To provide an effective voice for the People of the City of Belmont

Within our organisation we have members who are older and do not drive at night, members with disabilities, members who do not like public speaking, members that are nervous being known as members of what some may deem a political organisation, members who may have language difficulties, members that do not know how to go about having a voice in terms of their rights with so many different applicable rules. We help all sorts of people when needed, particularly when any outcome can affect others.

In the instance of the TPO whilst you may have deemed that Mr Hitt did not have an interest, the outcome of this may well affect me and other members. I have a tree in my yard that could potentially be a candidate for a TPO. We hear frequently officers giving reasons for their

recommendations that include they dont want to set a precedent and the outcome could affect future decisions.

Therefore we would like you to explain the following:

- ***Why we can not do deputations as BRRAG when others have been allowed to them on the basis of their organisation name ie an engineering business, a traffic consultant , a town planner etc?***
- ***and secondly why others such as the representative for the DA9 at the meeting are allowed to make deputations on behalf of others? There are plenty of examples of people coming and doing deputations with no personal interest. Another example off hand was a private planner that was allowed to represent a resident on a planning matter.***

We believe this decision could impact on members and residents that are disadvantaged residents of our community as examples outlined above. People who are elderly and have disabilities certainly should not be treated less favourably because BRRAG can't help them, Under our Constitution objectives that is what we do.

I look forward to your response.

Please be advised this letter and your response will go on the BRRAG website for the purpose of transparency for the residents of Belmont as will the response.

Lisa Hollands  
President BRRAG  
cc Councillors