



**BRRAG**

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

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

24 September 2019

Mayor and Councillors  
City of Belmont

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Many thanks to the Councillors who attended last weeks Special Electors Meeting

It was very disappointing the meeting was so disrupted. We felt that the two speaking against the motion Mr [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] were allowed to be completely out of order. Neither of them spoke to the motions. It appears Mr [REDACTED] was there solely for the purpose of trying to denigrate BRRAG. He has a history of speaking against any motion we put forward and uses opportunities to make remarks with no substance regarding our members. His outburst over our membership numbers had no relevance to either of the two motions. He was allowed to continue and was not called to order. He was even allowed to continue way past the time limit.

Prior to the meeting, I was given strict instructions as to how the meeting was going to be conducted. I was emailed a document with rules. This was passed on to the speakers in favour of the motion. You even advised all in attendance prior to the commencement of the rules. Those that spoke in favour all complied with the rules given to us. When I tried to get a further extension, which could have been done via a resolution, you Mr Mayor pulled me up and would not let me speak. Therefore one has to ask the question why you apply rules to some and not others?

With respect to the motion that was carried regarding electronically recording the meetings, it is hoped that you all give serious consideration to this motion. I referenced the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 in my correspondence dated 27 July 2019. I have made subsequent enquiries in respect of the discriminatory aspect of not recording these meetings. I believe that certain classes of people such as those with disabilities and those of a certain age are being discriminated against as they do not have the same access to attend meetings as those without these characteristics. I would suggest that ALL councillors make their own enquiries in respect of this and not rely on what you may be told by staff. It may well be that those that dont support such a motion are jointly and severably liable.

As the motions carried last week are not on the agenda for the ordinary council meeting tomorrow night, please advise when it will be? Section 5.33 of the Local Government Act reads:

**Decisions made at electors' meetings**

(1) All decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting or, if that is not practicable

- (a) at the first ordinary council meeting after that meeting; or
- (b) at a special meeting called for that purpose,

whichever happens first.

Presumably any additional special meeting will be an extra cost, for something that has already been on the agenda six times with four information forums two of which has McCleods in attendance.

In the event that this matter is not put on the table so the electorate knows prior to the October 19<sup>th</sup> election what the outcome is, we will heavily promote previous voting highlighting the four councillors up for re election, so everyone knows the ones that have NOT stood for transparency in the past. It is time the electorate knew the facts and not the election spiel being put out by our candidates just to get votes.

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. This letter will be widely circulated.

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG