



**BRRAG**

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

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

7 September 2019

Mayor Marks and Councillors  
City of Belmont

Dear Mayor Marks and Councillors

Prior to the OCM in August, I notified Mr Garrett that I would be doing a submission in respect of an item that was on the agenda. In this instance it was a late item put on the agenda after the Agenda Briefing Forum.

I got a response from Mr Christie. He stated the following:

***Public Submission time is allocated for inclusion in the Agenda Briefing Forum only, consequently the Standing Orders clauses relating to Public Submissions applies to the meeting process at this point. The Standing Orders does not prescribe a requirement to accept public submissions in meetings where the agenda does not include them as a part of the meeting. Given the established meeting agenda structure and process, the Public Submission Time & Deputation Proforma is considered to be relevant and compliant.***

The submission was allowed ONLY on the basis of it being a late item.

In the Standing Orders there is no reference to either Submissions, or Deputations being allowed to only be done at an Agenda Briefing Form. I refer you to the section in the Standing Orders. <http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au/CouncillorPortal/CouncillorMinuteAndMeeting/Minutes%20and%20Agendas%20Documents/Attachment%2010%20-%20refers%20Item%2012.6%20%20Proposed%20Standing%20Orders%20Local%20Law%202017.pdf> You will find it on page A206. These Standing Orders are Gazetted, so therefore should be followed as they do form part of The Local Government Act 1995. See Part 3 Division 2 of the same.

The council Deputation and Submission Proforma seems to be the only place to indicate these are done at an Agenda Briefing Forum. This being the case, it means the form you are using for these is inconsistent with the Standing Orders. Therefore there is only two options:

1. The form needs to be amended to reflect the current Standing Orders. This is of course the quickest and easiest option.
2. The current Standing Orders need to be amended to reflect the intent of what you are trying to do with the agenda.

At the June OCM, I had wanted to do a submission. This was refused by the Mayor after being told I have been coming to council meetings long enough to know the rules. I advised that the Standing

Orders make no mention that a submission could not be done at an OCM. I had a copy of the Standing Orders with me and asked him to refer me to the section where it stated that. I was given no response, however it was noted the CEO whispered in his ear and I was told by the Mayor to get on with my questions.

In the event that I am wrong and the Standing Orders specifically states that Submissions and Deputations either can or cant be done at an OCM, or any other meeting of council, please direct us to this. It is extremely frustrating when I keep being reminded to follow rules, when it seems it is very common that people at Belmont Council are the ones that either don't know the rules or there is some 'discretionary' interpretation used to suit the situation.

Please be advised this letter **and your response** will go on the BRRAG website for the purpose of transparency for the residents of Belmont. I am sure every resident in Belmont would be very interested to hear of any objections. I am sure we can ensure your response is well circulated to as many people as possible.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG

cc Minister Templeman