

At any one time the Belmont Council is working on a range of projects designed to improve the health & well-being of its residents. Part of this process involves community consultation. It needs an informed and responsive citizenry to do this effectively. Part of our role is to monitor this process and provide feedback.



**Spring is in the air.** The Springs Precinct Inc. has just been incorporated and this new group aims to promote a sense of community within the area of Rivervale known as The Springs, and adjoining neighbourhoods. To initiate and facilitate recreational and social activities for the benefit of the Association's members and their families. The group's focus is the Springs area bounded by the Swan River, Great Eastern Highway, the Railway line and up to the end of Nannine Place. Most of this area is in the City of Belmont but some is in the Victoria Park Council (from Graham Farmer Freeway to the railway). It will be interesting to see how this group progresses! For more information you can go to <https://thesprings.tidyhq.com/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/residentandratepayer>

**Have your say.** The State Government is currently reviewing the Local Government Act 1995. **Phase 1.** focused on areas such as public expectations for accountability, availability of information, ethics and performance of their councils. Universal training for candidates and council members, as well as a code of conduct, were considered. The Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries has released a discussion paper and public consultation on this closed earlier this year. The drafting of a new bill is now underway.

The next stage, **Phase 2.** Focuses on community based themes grouped under the headings: **Agile**, (balancing community expectations with limitations of revenue/expenditure and external pressures). **Smart**, (meeting community needs & expectations through transparent & accountable practice) & **Inclusive**, (involving all sectors of community in the decision-making process).

Surveys & submissions for this stage are **open until 31 March 2019**. For a fuller understanding of what this modernising reform involves visit; <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/localgovernment/strengthening/Pages/LG-Act-Review.aspx>

Once you've read the relevant discussion papers available on this site you can have your say by completing the 'community engagement survey' on-line at; <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/97V33NC>



**Did you know?** Strong competition has always occurred between neighbourhood shopping strips and large malls. The pressure on both has intensified in recent years with the advent of online shopping. Soon they are going to face the onslaught of large multinationals entering the market offering 'wholesale' retail. "A recent study by the firm *Civic Economics* found that franchise restaurants return 34.5% of revenue back into circulation while independents return 65.4%", p34, K. Legge, *Future City Solutions*, 2013.

Local shopping strips play a key role in maintaining our communities and should be supported.

**Oops! Erratum:** In our last newsletter we incorrectly substituted some 2017 data (instead of 2018) for the Community score card article. Whilst there was an improvement in the comparative index for Belmont 'as a place to live' to 74, it is still below the industry standard of 79, and the industry high of 95.

Also, with '**Lighting of streets and public places**', our score improved from 55 to 60, compared to industry standard of 55, but still below industry high of 65. In terms of **Safety and security** we rated at 52, below industry standard of 55, and high of 75. <http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/Catalyse%202018%20Community%20Perceptions%20Scorecard.pdf>

### Recommended reading:

*Happy City* (Penguin Books, 2013) by Charles Montgomery.

**Your feedback.** If you would like to submit an article that is relevant to the residents of Belmont, or you would like to join our group, refer contact details below.