



**BRRAG**

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

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

15 August 2019

The Mayor  
City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104  
Re: Submissions to Local Government

Dear Mayor Marks

I refer to your letter dated the 13 August, 2019.

Your reference to transparency is rather amusing given the correspondence of recent times. NO to BRRAG being able to record public question time; NO to being able to use the FOI recordings on our website because you the councillors have copyrighted them and of course the NO more times than you can count that the councillors have voted against having meetings recorded. NO to the CEO employment contract since April when it was a legislative requirement.

The transparency that was apparently so necessary in this instance, is clearly consistent with the consistency this council ensures in other areas. I am sure the residents will be thrilled to hear how transparent you were.

We will be applying to obtain a copy of the email to Local Government to which you refer, whether it is from the City of Belmont, the Department of Local Government or both. Of course since you want transparency you may be willing to flick it across to me so I dont have to pay for FOI. I will leave that to you to decide as our leader.

It just extraordinary that you felt the need to send minutes to reflect the process. I wonder how many councils feel the need to do this. I think I will do some posting to find out. I like to be thorough.

It is just lovely that you have identified how this problem could have been averted. One would have thought the amendments should have been made first, then sent in as our submission. Have you looked to see how many others councils submitted theirs with minute attachments.?

Quite frankly Mr Mayor this error or way of doing things is back on the CEO. He is in charge of his staff and it would seem things are not travelling too well in that area. How is it Mr Christie did not bother to check such an important document and the discovery of the error was by BRRAG months later? Did Mr Christie have to sign off on this document? I would have thought someone would have.

Unfortunately I find this response to such an important document sub standard. I do not expect that staff and a CEO who are on six digits figures of pay do not know what is the correct process. Extraordinary. Furthermore, it does beg the question how often these mistakes are occurring that

are not picked up. One would hope we are not writing to you in the near future with more serious errors. Our previous emails indicate things are not going too smoothly in some areas. I will not bother re listing them.

We will be taking this matter up with both the Minister and Shadow Minister of Local Government. As you are probably aware there is a lot going on in local government around the state right now and residents have every right to becoming vocal.

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

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG