



**BRRAG**

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

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

19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Mayor Marks and Councillors

I refer you to item 12.6 at the Agenda Briefing Forum – Response to Select Committee into Local Government.

It is noted the attachment for this item has been made “Confidential”. It is also noted in the Letter from the Select Committee you were asked “that you circulate this invitation to your Councillors, staff and interested parties in your local government area (including any ratepayer or similar organisations)

With respect the this item being marked as Confidential in the agenda, I took the liberty of contacting Simon O'Brien MLC to ask why he had signed a letter saying that it was confidential. He seemed surprised that the City of Belmont had taken this view by way of making it Confidential.

I further followed it up today with the Legislative Council Committee Office of WA, working on the basis that you would fob us off if we kicked up a fuss and blame the letter you received as to the reason why it is marked Confidential on the Agenda. The advice is that:

***“from the Committee’s perspective, a local government may consider the contents and preparation of a submission to the Committee (prior to lodging the submission with the Committee) publicly at its council meeting.”***

Letter attached.

On the basis of this correspondence we are asking that a motion be moved from our councillors to make this a public document so that the Residents can make comment and know what our council is submitting prior to them going to the Select Committee.

Only last week BRRAG discovered that the submissions to the Local Government Review in February were not changed in accordance with the resolutions made by council Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.41 Duties of the CEO (c) cause council decisions to be implemented This did not occur and was in breach of the Act.

Now we find out you are trying to keep the submissions to the Select Committee as confidential. It is not unreasonable on our part given the circumstances, to have grave doubts as to whether or not this can be done properly, especially given the apparent need to be keeping it under wraps.

The request of the Select Committee to forward to ratepayer groups was not done in our case. There was no letter forwarded to us and we have only had access via the documents on the City's website. How many other organisations was this forwarded to? Perhaps if we dont get a response to this question it will need to be made under recording at Public Question Time so it is on record.

We look forward to an urgent response on this matter with the Agenda Briefing Forum being tomorrow.

Please be advised this letter and any response will be made available to the Residents of Belmont on the BRRAG website for transparency.

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
Chairperson BRRAG