

Subject: Review of local government act
Date: Thursday, 28 March 2019 12:59:16 PM

Dear Mr Tieleman

I have written a submission to the local government act to highlight the situation that the City of Melville finds itself in.

My intention is to show what happens to decision making in council when the executive decides that the ends justify the means in getting what they want.

It is clear to all that the executive wanted to commercialise the land on which the Melville and Mt Pleasant bowling clubs occupy.

The honest way of accessing this land would be to put up a financial and social case for the land to return to council control without any improvements on it. This would have involved buying the Mt Pleasant land from the state government.

Instead a dishonest way was chosen and that was to commission a Bowls Strategy Report (BSR) which would achieve this objective.

The BSR was a sham from the start in that it only based its decisions on pennant bowls which was in decline and suited the narrative that the bowls clubs were not sustainable.

You now know that the BSR is indeed a sham because the Melville Bowling and Recreation Club independent report pointed this out with all references listed.

I told the inquiry that this disgraceful event had still to play out and that I had written to you asking you to uphold the governance standards of the city.

In my submission I pointed out that if information contained in the BSR was released in to the corporate world the biased and misleading nature of the information would attract a criminal penalty.

I have asked them to ensure that standards in the local government sector match those found in the corporate world as they both have the capacity to cause financial harm to the public.

Misinformation in the corporate sector may cause investors to base investment information on untrue information. The BSR report has the potential of wasting over \$10M of ratepayers money based on lies.

I want you to appreciate the gravity of what the senior executive of council has done in releasing the BSR.

There is a motion that flowed from that sham report, which has been defended by you and your colleagues for the past two years from criticism from me and others who saw it for what it was.

You now have an independent report which must be acted on. You can't sweep this one under the carpet.

I said in my last letter to you that your decision on this will be a defining one for yourself, the city and the local government sector. I mean it and I will be writing to the review of the local government legislation committee with updates.

I call on you one more time to rectify this situation. You must initiate a motion of rescission and recommend its adoption.

Regards

Hon. George Gear