

From: Beldon Residents Association [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 1:59 PM
To: DLGSC Act Review
Subject: Feedback - Local Government Reforms - Beldon Residents Association

Categories: Jen

Dear Sir / Madam

Please see the submission of the Beldon Residents Associations committee, based in the City of Joondalup, concerning our opinions on the major changes to the Local Government Act and Regulations. We have summarised our concerns and opinions in some of the six areas. Thanks in advance for taking our thoughts into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Paul Conlin
Secretary
Beldon Residents Association

1. Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties

- No issues with the proposals apart from the one below:

* Rapid Red Card Resolutions - we as an Association believe this is not necessary and that this will be abused. As the inspector will not be available when it is used, what is the point? A possible valid discussion by a ratepayer/s would be stifled. Nothing states how long this red card will be applied to a ratepayer. If the inspector finds that the red card was inappropriate, will the ratepayers' comments or discussion be reinstated for an answer at the next council meeting?

2. Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity

- No issues with the proposals

3. Greater transparency and accountability

- No issues with the proposals apart from the two below:

* Mandatory recording of council meetings - we as an Association would very much like to see a mandatory recording of the briefing sessions where discussion and explanations of the agenda items for the following week's councils meetings and where the final vote takes place. We believe the ratepayers will get a better idea of the thoughts and reasoning behind decisions on agenda items by the local government and its council. This currently not occurring in our City.

* Transparency and accountability through online registers - we as an Association would very much like to see this introduced as long as it is easy to find electronically.

4. Stronger local democracy and community engagement

- No issues with the proposals apart from the one below

* Preferential Voting - we as an Association would very much like to see this introduced. Too many candidates are being elected on very small percentages of the total vote. This does not reflect the majority of voters taking part. Compulsory voting is also something our Association would like to see.

5. Clear Roles and Responsibilities

- No issues with the proposals apart from the two below:

* Superannuation allowances - Mentions covering tuition fees of elected members. We as an Association do not agree with this proposal. The only thing ratepayers should be covering is mandatory training only not the pet projects of councillors.

* CEO recruitment - We as an Association believe that more needs to be emphasised in the proposal covering the detailed scrutiny of CEOs' CV's.

6. Improved financial management and reporting

- No issues with the proposals