

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EGC](#)  
**Subject:** Operation Belcarra  
**Date:** Friday, 23 March 2018 6:28:09 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my concerns about the lack of detail around Operation Belcarra and how it applies to local government. I am a resident of the Moreton Bay Region and until recently had no idea how much power individuals at a local government elect level had to decide massive changes impacting communities for generations.

I would like to see all council workshops be opened to minutes to be viewed by the public. Closed workshops seem to be masking discussions that communities should be able to view and understand what was said, who participated and what was decided. This is the opportune time for information and influential pressure to apply in which case by the time a meeting is held in chambers the decision is already decided. I have sat through a council meeting where it was clear the decision was already decided and while a councillor left the room, they had obviously partaken in previous discussions making their absence merely a token offering of transparency.

Conflicts of interest need to go beyond the council meeting level and right back to any involvement what so ever from the person to whom the conflict applies. There should be no participation in the workshops or closed meetings at any time.

Interests should go beyond the council elects and through to the spouse and or trusts held by the families. It is absurd to think that a spouse is not investigated for conflicts given it is a common arrangement to hold assets in a spouses name for taxation purposes.

Further, It is should also be something that is looked at beyond tenure so that donations cannot be made upon retirement.

Employees in senior positions within council are just as open to conflicts of interests, particularly town planners and CEO's. I do not understand why they should not also be included as much to protect the community but also them, entering positions as well-meaning employees.

Finally, audits need to be held of our local councils beyond just financial levels. Our community no longer feels like our council elects are acting on our behalf at all. We are often laughed at in meetings, jeered in social media and overall just a lack of good judgement and professionalism is being provided. No one is watching the watcher anymore and given local councils are doing a lot more than simply rates, roads and rubbish, perhaps it is time their governance reflects this responsibility.

Yours Truly

Ngair Stirling  
[REDACTED]