

**From:** Berry Forum <berryforum@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 January 2018 3:18 PM  
**To:** ian.robertson@holdingredlich.com  
**Subject:** Mark Cornish - The Berry Forum [HR-SYD.FID439171]

Dear Ian,

The Berry Forum is recognised as the Community Consultative Body for Berry by Shoalhaven Council. Our Committee of twelve, which includes retired corporate executives and professionals from Sydney and Canberra and successful local business people, volunteer their time and skills for the benefit of the community.

We are also fortunate to have the benefit of informal advice from former senior partners of Sydney law firms, who have retired to Berry and support the community work we undertake. They tell us that Holding Redlich "are a firm of substance and good repute" and they are puzzled as to why they would issue a letter which constitutes a totally unreasonable fishing expedition on behalf of a client who had made no attempt to contact the Forum to obtain any information.

The letter, which purports to have come from your firm, is attached. You will observe the irregularities it contains.

The demands for information make no sense given that all minutes of Forum and Committee meetings and submissions, and the Forum's financial report can be found on the Forum website. If the author of the letter had taken a few minutes to read the *Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies 2016*, which he references, he would have learned that CCBs do not need to be incorporated and that they can accept donations to assist with running costs.

You would appreciate that the receipt of the letter just a few days before Christmas, with its threatening tone and demand for a response within 28 days, caused concern and disruption at the time. We forwarded the letter to Shoalhaven Council, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have reaffirmed their support for the Forum.

Could you please advise what course of action you expect us to take.

Regards,

Stuart Coughlan, Secretary  
David Carter, Chairman  
<http://berryforum.org.au/>