

30 January 2018

The Secretary,
Mr Stuart Coughlan
Berry Forum
Community Consultative Body

By email,

MOTION FOR DISCUSSION FOR THE BERRY FORUM MEETING 15 FEBRUARY 2018

Background:

The previous Berry Forum meeting on the 14 December 2017 had two items on the Special General Meeting agenda for two procedural amendments to the Forum's Constitution. The first amendment was voted on by the attendees at the meeting and passed. The second motion stated:

Fourteen days notice to be given of a request for a vote at a Forum meeting, so that the community can be informed of the context of the issue to be voted on.

There were five speakers from the floor addressing this issue, four opposed to the motion and one speaker relating it to a survey of the issue of the location of the additional public toilet.

The motion was subsequently withdrawn and no vote to amend the constitution was held. There was no show of hands for acceptance of this procedural change and when the motion was withdrawn, you as Secretary, announced it was still "*our preferred option.*"

Berry Forum Minutes of the Meeting 14 December 2017

The minutes produced from the meeting and disseminated to the community detailed this issue as follows:

Special General Meeting

The following minor amendment to the Forum Constitution was supported –

"The AGM to be held by end October, rather than within 3 months of the end of the financial year".

The second proposal will not be added to the Constitution, but the meeting attendees supported its adoption as an operational guideline for the Forum –

"Fourteen days notice to be given of a request for a vote at a Forum meeting, so that the community can be informed of the context of the issue to be voted on".

The minutes of the meeting are an inaccurate record of the events and discussions and clearly an attempt by the Office Bearers of the Berry Forum CCB to manipulate the outcome of the discussion of this issue on the night. The assertion that *the meeting attendees supported as an operational guideline for the Forum* is false and misleading.

The nature of this so called "*operational guideline*" is to remove from the meeting any items or issues proposed by attendees on the night of the Forum meeting, for discussion by the community. It clearly imposes a level of control and censorship to be exercised by the committee and Office Bearers because an issue has not been presented 14 days prior to the meeting.

This matter is critical to an open and free discussion of all issues presented to and by community members.

The issue must be resubmitted to the Forum for further discussion and a vote by the meeting before it is imposed on the community by the forum's committee and Office Bearers.



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