
Brisbane Association for Rates Equity Inc.

14 August 2009

Open Letter to Body Corporate

To whom this may concern

B.A.R.E. DELIVERS MASSIVE SAVINGS FOR OWNERS

The Executive of the Brisbane Association for Rates Equity Inc (B.A.R.E.) would like to share with you some very significant information on the savings achieved in General Rates for the owners in several CTS Buildings, as a result of our continued and successful campaign against the "Parity Factor" multiplier for General Rates for Unit Owners.

[B.A.R.E. achieves over \\$9.6 million + in General Rates savings for 6,000 Brisbane Unit Owners for 2009/10*](#)

B.A.R.E. has recently completed a detailed analysis of the General Rates payable for the 2009/10 financial year for 44 major Brisbane CTS buildings. A summary of the findings of that analysis are attached.

[Where to Next for B.A.R.E.?](#)

We still very much need your ongoing commitment and support, not only for the campaign for a fair and equitable rating system, but to deliver other benefits to your Body Corporate.

As you will be aware the Supreme Court challenge to the Parity Factor (brought by our President and Vice President and underwritten by B.A.R.E.) was unfortunately unsuccessful. Although Justice James Douglas' decision on this matter was completely at odds with the view of the Queensland Solicitor General, the decision has been made and there is little we can do about it now. While we were advised that we had strong grounds to appeal the decision we just didn't have the financial resources to do so.

B.A.R.E. intends to continue the campaign on behalf of Brisbane Unit Owners in the following ways:

1. To strengthen our organisation as a representative voice for Brisbane Ratepayers;
2. To press for the establishment of a Brisbane Rates Reference Group with representation from both Brisbane City Council, ratepayers and ratepayer organisations, as a consultative forum for the promotion and establishment of genuinely fair and equitable rating policy in the Brisbane City Council Local Government Area;

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3. To strive towards the ultimate abolition of the discriminatory “Parity” Formula;
4. To research and investigate the true cost benefits to the community of medium and high density living and promote the reduction of statutory costs and charges (and where applicable, Body Corporate expenses) for CTS scheme property to properly reflect those benefits.

To achieve our objectives and facilitate the next stage of our efforts, we are raising funds from Body Corporate members and donors. (Please note, all B.A.R.E. executive members volunteer their time and all funds raised are applied 100% towards the association’s objectives).

In the light of the benefits we have been able to deliver to your owners to date we would like to ask you to please consider making a Body Corporate Contribution to B.A.R.E. to assist us in pursuing these causes on behalf of all CTS scheme owners.

Please consider donating 5% of the savings we have delivered to your owners, back to B.A.R.E., so that we can continue our work.

More background to our Association can be found on www.brisbaneratesequity.com.au.

And please also consider telling your associates about what we are doing and encouraging them to support us.

I would be more than happy to speak with you direct about B.A.R.E. and our activities, or to address your Committee or Members at a mutually convenient time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely
BRISBANE ASSOCIATION FOR RATES EQUITY INC

RUTH BONNETT
Secretary