

Proposed Optus tower Hervey Bay, Queensland

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Straits Outlook, Craignish in Hervey Bay, Queensland. Optus are planning to erect a 10 meter tower opposite us in a residential area, 2 meters and 3 meters from residential boundaries. They plan to do this by erecting the tower beside a small water reservoir (4 meters high) and calling it low impact. To achieve this they have to build an equipment shelter 2.5m x 2.5m x 3m with concrete filled brick walls, 300 x 600 mm piers, a concrete slab roof and antenna pole bracing with 2 steel beams holding up the tower as the tower will not stand up on its own. They have encountered a great deal of difficulty engineering this structure as the water tank is a prefabricated structure, 23 years old, with no plans as it was a gift from the developer.

The residents of our tight knit community are united against Optus on this issue, however the Council says it is out of their hands, they cannot assist us. Therefore it is up to the residents to take this to the Federal Supreme Court and fight for our homes and wellbeing. There is research now emerging that the effects of EMR at short range continuously emitting, poses a significant health risk. This will also have a catastrophic effect on the valuation of our properties.

We believe Optus have artificially contrived to circumvent the legislation. They have laughed at our concerns and refused to answer our letters. They have treated us with disdain and contempt. For this reason we plead with you to change the legislation so ordinary people have a say as to where these towers can be constructed. The precautionary principle should have to be adhered to. In our case there are three very young children within 25 meters of the proposed site and many more within 80 meters.

We desperately need for the low impact facility determination to be deleted and all towers to be subject to local town planning restrictions. The self regulation the telecommunication companies enjoy is clearly not working. There is an urgent need for an independent arbiter to oversee the deployment of this infrastructure. The cost to my health and all within close proximity to the proposed tower has been greatly affected. It has placed upon us a huge financial burden, as we are looking at moving if it goes ahead. It has also been very costly to date gaining legal advice.

I ask all to support the Bill and give communities the chance to be protected from any, as yet unknown, side effects from long term exposure to this radiation.

Yours faithfully,  
Wendy Taylor