

To Whom it may concern,

RE: CHANGES TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

I support the changes to the Telecommunications Act in that they allow community discussion and wider community notification of such towers.

In my area of Berowra Heights Sydney, Aurecon has proposed a tower to be built in a busy shopping and residential area.

The only people notified either live very close to the tower or are shop holders and yet this proposed tower will affect the whole community.

My objections to Telstra and Aurecon were noted but it seems like they can just do what they like - even if there is no proof that these towers are safe and there is some evidence that they are a health risk. (See attached Lancet Oncology article)

The proposal at Berowra Heights will be within a couple of hundred meters of a child care centre looking after children from 0-5 years old, the most vulnerable population in regards to adverse health outcomes from electromagnetic frequencies. It will also be near houses and a busy shopping area.

From what I understand Hornsby Council have no power to stop the development as the Telecommunications Act overrides their objections.

Mr Wilkie's Telecommunications Amendment (Enhancing Community Consultation) Bill 2011 would give people within a 500m radius of proposed towers the right to lodge a complaint, extend the objection period from 10 to 30 business days and require poles and aerials to be viewed holistically when assessed.

I think he's on the right track.

There are plenty of arguments against mobile phone towers being located in residential areas closer than 500 metres to housing. Some studies cite a 300% increased risk of cancer over five years for those who live closer than 400 metres to these towers.

WHO has cited a recent study in Lancet Oncology July 2011 that rates risk at level 2B. These towers have lower EMF than holding a mobile phone to your ear but emit the EMF all day every day.

Thank you

Susan Willey