

Subject: SUBMISSION
Date: Wednesday, 9 November 2011 5:33:24 AM

SUBMISSION TO :Infrastructure and Communications Committee,
Telecommunications Amendment [Enhancement Community Consultation] BILL
2011.

This Submission represents unequivocal support for the BILL as identified above.

Recently we became aware of a proposal to erect two towers on the Woolworths building in Sandy bay, Tasmania. Our local community was dismayed, distressed and almost disbelieving at ::

- 1] the lack of community consultation/preparation;
- 2] the absolute inappropriateness of the site;
- 3]the uncooperative, overbearing attitude displayed by the Telcos;
- 4] the realisation that we, the citizens and rate-payers, have NO VOICE to be heard over an issue which impacts upon us and might potentially impact upon us long term.

There is NOWHERE for us to be heard, short of going to court at an astronomical expense with a lawyer. No-one could help us, not even Council who told us because of federal legislation no council approval was needed and they could not intervene. Our community objected loudly and when no-one could help us we tried everything and everyone but Optus and Telsra didn't seem to take any notice. They still wanted to put their towers in at Woolworths.

Not long ago Woolworths said they wouldn't have towers on their building. But we don't feel comfortable because new plans are coming and Woolworths' stand might not help us. We now know that TOWERS CAN BE BUILT WHEN THE OWNERS SAY NO !!

Why do telcos have so much power ? Regulations that tip the balance blindly in their favour are undemocratic. It is patently unfair. Our experience shows that telcos are not serious about consultation or listening to our concerns.

Give communities a fighting chance.

The Woolworths site is a hub of activity for a diversity of citizens...young families, children, local and international students, mature age retirees and the frail and elderly. There is a primary school and also several doctors' clinics close by. People live in houses right next to the area where Optus and Telstra want to put their towers...all of which would be well within the fallout range of EMR transmissions. When we don't know what will happen in 20--40 years' time and there is already research which shows potential problems, the Government should make sure that our UNCONDITIONAL exposure to EMR from towers is the lowest it can be , and should make telcos build their towers in more appropriate locations from now on.

Our community has learned that the three closest towers to Woolworths have just been made bigger but again the community did not get a say. We didn't even hear about it.

In addition, visually/aesthetically we do not need more blots on the landscape that jar against our beautiful heritage area. WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE UGLINESS that such tower structures, sticking out like the proverbial sore thumb, would impose upon our environment and amenity.

The telcos knew that our area was heritage-listed and didn't care.

We already have good mobile phone coverage in Sandy Bay for Telstra and Optus. We have never been shown where the mysterious black spots are [Optus]. When the telcos won't listen to us and won't give us any information to show why we need the towers it seems as though these towers are for their own benefits and their own profits. It is because Telsra and Optus did not consult properly or even tell us about both towers , and because they didn't listen to us, that we have started to ask the question ::WHAT MIGHT BE NEXT ?? We first heard about the plan for a tower in May but now Christmas is near and we are still in the dark . Telstra has finally decided not to put a tower on Woolworths but have not told us where they may look instead. Consultation has not improved in six months.

On this entire issue of towers construction, our community has been ignored, has had obfuscation practised upon it, and clearly needs to be protected from local government powerlessness and the telcos lack of transparency.

The children in our area who are most vulnerable growing up in our community do not deserve 70 years of EMR at levels higher than needed just because telcos can simply do as they please to rake in those extra dollars.

I have a mobile phone and I use it constantly. But I still think that putting in towers in the right place is vitally important and I still think communities need to be consulted in the proper manner.

Mr. Wilkie couldn't be more right when he says that there needs to be some balance.

WE NEED THIS BILL.

HELENA E. BURY, HOBART.