

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

Senators,

I and members of our neighbourhood have been battling Telstra, Brisbane City Council and The Anglican Church since early 2011 to prevent a 21.4 metre multi-panelled phone tower being located 10 metres from our back door (in the case of my neighbour, 15 metres away for me). To date we won a stay of construction, but this is about to change as Telstra have now advised they will submit to Brisbane City Council (BCC) a new application, consult with 80 landholders, then expect to place the new tower within the Church grounds located at 30 Ridley Road Bridgeman Downs Qld 4035. Telstra are waiting for the Local Council elections to be completed, and for the existing local member of BCC Mr. Norm Wyndham (LNP) to be re-elected, who supports the application. They submit the new application in May 2012 to BCC.

Why would they support a phone tower being located in amongst residential homes and retirement villages when you know the following facts;

1. There are now 35 existing phone tower facilities located in the immediate four suburbs of Bridgeman Downs, Aspley, Carseldine and McDowall.
2. The particular site in Bridgeman Downs has four towers located within a 1.8 km radius : two towers in the Aspley Hypermarket Shopping Centre, 1 km south-east of the planned site (one of these is a Telstra Tower approx 15 metres tall, and could be lifted in height, Telstra won't answer why they can't modify that existing site within a Commercially Zoned area ; for example, Telstra have lifted towers to 46 metres previously in WA.), plus another Telstra tower 1.5 km west of the proposed site located in Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery , and finally a Crown Castle Tower 1.8km north-east of the proposed site. I believe we are over serviced for phone towers.
3. BCC have allowed a Development Approval for Multi-Storied buildings to occur 1 km east-south-east of the planned site, and phone panels will be allowed to be placed on top of the residential towers, as they approved up to 600 units on that site. Surely these will cover the planned site?
4. The new tower will place EMF at the height of many houses occupied in streets above the tower site to the north, north-east and north-west.
5. The Anglican Church runs martial arts classes two to four nights a week, Sunday School for children outside the walls of the Church, and generally runs classes for children that will be affected by EMF.
6. No studies on the effects of EMF are conclusive. We note NSW Department of Education wouldn't let a phone tower within 500 metres of Jamberoo Public School, or Qld Department of Education weighed into the Bardon Public School issue, and Telstra moved to a 300 metre distance from children.
7. This area has already been selected by the Federal Government for the new NBN network to be installed. Why do we need any further Internet development? Is this Telstra trying to pick up market share versus NBN, or since the new announcements between Telstra and the Federal Government, why proceed with a costly duplication?
8. Lastly, the effect on property values is horrendous. A New Zealand empirical study in 2003 and 2007 found that property values fell up to 25% in some cases. Due to the current Federal laws, the local owners will not be compensated. We are already affected by a 40 year Main Roads corridor across from our homes and the planned site, our real estate values will drop further, and we face negative equity. If the Senate requires, I can produce the exact references for the empirical study conducted by the New Zealand University involved.

I apologise for my late submission, but thank the Senate for accepting my comments and our concerns for our environment, the duplication of towers and its waste, and the lack of support from Local Government or

consultation by the landowner the Anglican Church plus Telstra. We will refer our submissions to BCC in future to the outcomes of this committee.

Yours Sincerely

Greg Marning