

19 March 2012

Committee Secretary  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretary

Optus thanks the Committee for the opportunity to respond to the submissions made to the Senate Inquiry into the Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011 by the Tower Action Group and Mr Rob Godwin.

Optus understands the community concerns raised in both submissions but categorically rejects the comments made that Optus has acted dishonestly.

Optus works hard to strike a balance between community feedback and the demand for increased mobile coverage. When proposing new mobile sites, Optus follows all relevant planning guidelines and actively consults with the community on the roll-out of mobile infrastructure.

In relation to the proposed facility at Highfields, Optus has fully complied with all statutory requirements including an analysis of sensitive land –uses and the required planning approval under the Queensland Planning Act.

In relation to the Lennox Head facility and in accordance with the ACIF code, consultation was conducted with Ballina Shire Council and residents. This commenced in October 2010 and continued into 2011. Optus received approximately 70 letters of objection which we responded individually. As part of our discussions with the local council and local community we asked for and welcomed any suggestions on alternative sites. We did investigate a number of sites in the immediate area all of which were not suitable and in most cases would have had more impact on the local environment.

Yours sincerely

Clare Gill, General Manager Government and Corporate Affairs