



20 February 2012

Our Ref: 26.6; 13.41; 13.10

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**INQUIRY INTO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT
(MOBILE PHONE TOWERS) BILL 2011**

On behalf of Kingborough Council I wish to make the following submission in support of the Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011.

At a Council meeting held on Monday, 24 October 2011, Council discussed the proposed amendments to the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and, in particular, its support for more community input into the future location of telecommunication towers.

The current legislation requires that “low impact” telecommunications facilities do not require a planning permit or any prior approval from Council. This is not the case for the larger telecommunications towers and a development application must be submitted for the consideration of the Planning Authority.

As an area which has been subjected to applications for towers, which were strongly opposed by the local community, Council is concerned that there is not an appropriate level of consultation in relation to their siting before the matter comes before it as a Planning Authority.

In its role as a Planning Authority, Council can only accept the development application as it is submitted and assess it against the standards and requirements of the planning scheme. Community input is provided via the formal advertisement and representation process. Council is not able to require early community input into the future location of telecommunication towers (prior to the lodgement of the development application).

An open and accountable practice of forward planning for future telecommunication towers and services would therefore appear to be a sound approach.

/2..

Following the discussions held at its meeting held on 24 October 2011, Council determined that a letter be written to Senator The Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, in support for appropriate amendments being made to the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, and a copy of that letter is attached to this submission.

DR GRAHAM BURY
MAYOR

Attachment: Copy letter to Senator The Hon Stephen Conroy



COPY

25 October 2011

Our Ref: 26.6; 13.41; 13.10

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Level 4, 4 Treasury Place
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS

Council is aware that Senator Bob Brown has proposed the *Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011*.

At its meeting on 24 October 2011 the issue relating to community input into the future location of telecommunication was discussed by Council. As an area which has recently been subjected to applications for towers, which were strongly opposed by the local community, Council is concerned that there is not an appropriate level of consultation in relation their siting before the matter comes before it as a Planning Authority.

Council determined that I write to you advising of Kingborough's support for appropriate amendments being made to the *Telecommunications Act 1997* which seeks more community input into the future location of telecommunication towers.

Council also requested that a copy of this letter be forwarded to all Tasmanian Federal Members of Parliament seeking their support for amendments to the *Act*.

PAUL WEST
GENERAL MANAGER

kingborough.tas.gov.au

Civic Centre, 15 Channel Hwy, Kingston, Tasmania 7050 Locked Bag 1, Kingston Tasmania 7050
AusDoc: DX 70854 T; (03) 6211 8200. F: (03) 6211 8211 E: kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au