

THE RIVERMOUTH ACTION GROUP INC.

"SERVING MANY COMMUNITIES"

WHAT CAN'T BE DONE ALONE
WE CAN DO TOGETHER



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9 November 2011

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir

RE: The Telecommunications Amendment (Enhancing Community Consultation)
Bill 2011

We as a group have for several years now hosted a web site, at no cost, relating to the placement of an Optus telecommunications tower at Brighton, Queensland on behalf of several concerned community members who are concerned with a tower.

From time to time we receive emails from other community members across Australia who are faced with the placement of towers either near them or near their children's school, kindy or playground.

Although we think that this amendment is a bit late in coming it must be made retrospective allowing communities to a veto existing towers which are near existing sensitive areas because most of Australia's required phone towers now exist.

Also that no part of a community notification period be allowed between December 1 and February 1 in any year unless a 90 day objection period is allowed. It is not good enough to have your end of year holidays, Christmas period or when you are trying to prepare your children to return to school time, interrupted with trying to write submissions, have protest meetings about phone towers invading your neighbourhood.

What is also needed is for the mobile phone industry to make available to the community at no cost and through a independent third party the use of measuring equipment which would record the levels and allow existing communities to see actual measurements of the wide range of radio frequencies which they are subjected to over a several day period.

The range of frequencies should include Mobile Phones, Cordless Phones, Wi-Fi (b, g & n range), TV, Radio (AM, FM, Digital), Wireless Internet, Radar such as airports, Microwave Transmissions, 2 Way Radio, CB Radio, Amateur Band Radio,

This would then allow community members to see the amount of Radio Frequency emissions entering their homes, schools and workplaces from the different sources across the RF spectrum over an extended period.

The investigations which we have carried out on towers installed by telecommunication companies is that they do not take measurements of EM emission at each tower installed but only calculate them for their required documents.

We have discovered a few sites where topography was not taken into account when assessments are being carried out. As the work is done in an office environment, the staff has no idea of the height of surrounding buildings or houses in the near proximity to the towers even though it is a requirement.

It is not good enough to have Mobile Phone Companies allowed to place their equipment on privately owned buildings without the owners consent.

With more upgrades planed and more mobile phones in use, the emissions from every towers is set to increase, but most do not have actual readings taken at the towers or away from the towers.

We are informed that the allowable emissions were raised many times above the old standard when the first mobile phone towers were first built. What was once decided a safe level overnight became safe 10's if not 100's of time higher.

For those residents who have a fear of the emissions from mobile phone towers there is just no where that they can relocate to in a large city to escape the emissions from phone towers should they wish to do so.

The highest emissions from a phone tower we found in our area was from on top of a Telstra Phone Exchange outside of which many school students wait every morning and afternoon for their respective buses.

We support the bill and grant permission to publish our submission and we are willing to attend a hearing and give oral evidence if asked or required to do so.

Your faithfully

Barry Wilson
(Chairperson)