

12 March 2012

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

Dear Sir

With Interest I learned of the Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011. Back in 1999 Optus decided to put a phone tower 120 metres from our home and only 80 metres from one of our neighbour's home. We were as a nearby community never notified by Optus of their intension.

The two public notices which were displayed on the land (on fences) were not easily assessable. One was at the property (farm) gate which was at the end of a dead end road some 2.5 km from my home by the shortest route. The other sign was hung on a barb wire fence along a limited access road with a speed limit of 80 km/hr with no ability to pull over and read even if you were aware of a sign being there.

We were informed that it is illegal to stop on limited access roads unless your vehicle is broken down or in an emergency.

The topography was never taken into account when calculations were made of the exposure levels of EME from the proposed tower. The tower is situated on very low land not much above the high tide level whereas we are on elevated land several metres above the AHD/RL as are our neighbours.

It was only after a local resident became aware of the proposal that they letterboxed our area on 1 June 1999. This only allowed the community just three days to lodge a submission against the phone tower.

We protested strongly for nearly 5 months, but eventually they had erected their tower. Now two other carriers have co-located and Optus have sold the tower.

The radiation from this phone tower is beaming straight at our home 24/7.

We are very concerned for our health due to the emission of EME from this phone tower. Even though we are told that the emission levels are below what is allowed by the Federal Government, overseas countries have much lower levels allowable.

The stress which this phone tower has subjected our family to is a real health issue. We are both retired and medical research has shown that stress is a killer. Either way the phone tower's emissions and the stress are both health issues for us.

As a result of our protesting we had a web site put up in December 1999 telling the full story of Optus's Brighton Mobile Phone Tower, which we have kept on line ever since.

<http://www.rag.org.au/optus/default.htm>

Our local Federal Member the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan MP even took the time to address the Federal Parliament on Thursday 25 November 1999 on our community's behalf.

Since then we have been waiting for Mr Swan to take some action on our behalf.

We fully support the proposed amendments and we are willing to allow our submission to be made public and to appear before the Standing Committee and give oral evidence if required.

Yours faithfully

Robert & Carol Parkinson