

Submission to the Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011

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

Submission to the Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011

Amendment for Consultation to the community

I think we need the amendments to the Telecommunications Act because as a home owner near the proposed site I was concerned that I had to find out about it by other concerned residents.

We received no official notification or report from any of the Telco's or regulators. The carriers were quite disinterested and unwilling to change sites despite the objections from the local community. I feel the community needs more support for it's voice and opinions.

Amendment for 5 yearly review of ARPANSA Standards

I am a mother of two young children and am concerned about the levels of EM radiation that such towers would emit. As my children will go to school in the same area it would mean they would be constantly exposed to this radiation. This is completely unacceptable and without these changes to the Act we would have no voice against it and no other recourse but to move; an undesirable outcome seeing as we have only just moved here within the last year. When we were purchasing our house this subject is something we took into consideration actually knocking back a potential home in another area because of it's proximity to another tower.

Given that the ARPANSA standard hasn't been reviewed since 2002 and that the WHO reclassified EM radiation to possibly be carcinogenic in May 2011, the amendment to review the EMR Exposure Standard is extremely important as a health issue in our community. I would not want myself or my children to be subjected to such a potentially large health risk due to lax standards. Other countries in the world have much, much lower EMR exposure standards than Australia. Why are we so behind?

Given that the first site on top of the Woolworths building has now been rejected why are they now proposing other sites only metres away from the original area? This is so emotionally draining and potentially financially draining to us as we DO NOT want to live in an area near a mobile tower. Our objection to such a tower has been a 10 month battle so far and still they cannot put a better site proposal forward. There needs to be more regulation of tower planning and more consultation and communication with the community of the proposed sites.

I support this Bill and I ask that the Committee support it too.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Valentine