

Subject: Submission - Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2011
Date: Thursday, 10 November 2011 7:50:05 PM

Submission to:
Infrastructure and Communications Committee, Telecommunications
Amendment (Enhancement Community Consultation) Bill 2011.

Dear Committee members,

We definitely support the bill, and are members of a community that (as Andrew Wilkie stated) "should not have to hold public rallies and lobby politicians" ... because we " have been unable to have a say in where new towers spring up in our own area. The telecommunications industry has too much autonomy when siting and constructing mobile phone towers, with the result that legitimate community concerns are often not addressed."

Some of these concerns, in our case arising from a proposed Optus phone tower to be built on top of the Woolworths supermarket situated in the middle of the Sandy Bay (Hobart) shopping centre, are:-

- little or no consultation, poor information
- lack of consideration of community objections to inappropriate siting
- long term health effects possibly affecting a densely packed residential/shopping area, with nearby schools and medical surgeries
- visual impact in a heritage area
- no development approval required if telco has self-assessed development as low impact. (Hobart City Council had assessed the tower as high impact)
- there is nowhere to go to complain, except legal action (the Sandy Bay Community Action Group complained to the ACMA about regulation breaches but received little action)
- there are already 4 mobile towers within a 3km radius of Woolworths
- it's time to bring this 15 year old legislation up to date.

Yours sincerely,

Guntis and Olga Kumpis