



7 November 2011

Clerk Assistant (Committees)
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT (ENHANCING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION) BILL 2011

I refer to the above inquiry and ask that consideration be given to the Hobart City Council's concerns in respect to a proposed Optus telecommunications facility installation in the Hobart suburb of Sandy Bay and the potential health risks it may have on residents in the area.

The Council at its meeting held on 11 July 2011 considered two petitions containing a total of 289 signatures opposing the Optus proposal to erect a 15.8 metre high mobile phone tower on the rooftop carpark at the Woolworths Sandy Bay supermarket complex.

The Council is dissatisfied with the Telecommunications Act 1997 and the Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 1997, which does not allow the Council to address the concerns of its residents, particularly in respect to the possible health risks associated with installed telecommunications facilities in residential areas that emit radiation. These facilities are properly categorised as 'low impact facilities' within in the meaning of the Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 1997.



The Council strongly urges the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications to assist in this matter by amending the relevant Commonwealth legislation to allow the public to have a greater say in relation to this issue.

The Council has forwarded separate correspondence in relation to this issue to Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and Andrew Wilkie MP, Member for Denison.

Yours faithfully

(N. D. Heath)
GENERAL MANAGER