

E-mail Message

From: Lorraine Young [SMTP:lyo28955@bigpond.net.au]
To: council [EX:/O=TOWN OF
COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL]
Cc:
Sent: 5/06/2013 at 1:47 PM
Received: 5/06/2013 at 1:47 PM
Subject: Development application 1 Congdon Street Cottesloe

Attention: Andrew Jackson, Planning Department

Hello Andrew

My husband and I are the owners of the property at 117 Grant Street Cottesloe and we have only just been informed by neighbours about the planning application to erect 2 7.5m telecommunication masts on the above property. We object to the application on several grounds, including the visual impact the masts and the faux brickwork in which they are to be encased will have on the streetscape. The area is predominantly residential homes with some heritage value. Erecting what will look like 7.5 m chimneys on top of a low rise building is going to create an eyesore in the neighbourhood. All neighbours are subject to height restrictions in developments and I believe that Telstra should be subject to the same rules as everyone else.

We are not satisfied with Telstra's assurances regarding the health impact of these towers. Our property effectively sits directly under the proposed masts and as such will be subjected to any adverse emissions arguably greater than many of the surrounding properties. Any emissions will be 24 hours a day every day. Telstra's track record of environmental responsibility is not good. I suggest that towers such as these should be positioned to minimise exposure - ie they should not be plonked into residential areas.

I believe that a number of other submissions have been made about the proposal on various grounds and I would add our voice to those objections. I assume that Council will meet at some stage to consider this application and I request that such considerations should be in a forum open to the public, that notice be given and that we be given the opportunity to attend and voice our concerns at that time.

Kind regards

Lorraine Young
117 Grant St
Cottesloe
Ph 0413 590 162

Ed Drewett

From: Danielle Newman [moose115@bigpond.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 8:15 PM
To: Ed Drewett
Subject: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TO INSTALL TWO COMMUNICATION MASTS ATOP
TELSTRA BUILDING AT 1 CONGDON STREET, COTTESLOE

To Mr Drewett

I am the owner of 11 Congdon St, Cottesloe. I am appalled that such an application would even be considered right in the middle of a residential area. My house along with the majority along Congdon St between Stirling Hwy and Grant St is heritage listed. These towers would ruin the streetscape and are not in line with the heritage look of the area. They are totally unacceptable.

In addition to this, I am raising my five children in this house and all my research clearly indicates that living so close to this type of tower would expose us to unacceptable levels of electro magnetic radiation. I am not willing to believe claims made by Telstra on this issue.

I understand by the signs on the front of the exchange that there is asbestos in the building. Telstra have a bad track record in dealing with asbestos – have you read today's West Australian?

Your only responsible thing to do is to propose alternative sites where there is clearly no heritage issues and/or not residential areas. For example - one of the numerous buildings along the west side of Stirling Highway, south of the Cottesloe Village. Or the Grove Plaza Building – nothing could make that any more ugly.

I can be contacted if needed to make further comment.

Kind regards

Danielle Newman

Ed Drewett

From: Cameron Cooper [cameron@gjjgroup.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 June 2013 5:14 PM
To: Ed Drewett
Subject: FW: Re: Development Application for Proposed Mobile Phone Towers Atop the Telstra Building at the corner of Condon Street and Stirling Highway
Attachments: Telstra Building DA application.docx

Good afternoon Mr Drewett,

Katie Pinnick advised by email that you had not received my email sent yesterday.

Please refer to the following

Regards,

Cameron Cooper

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

GJJ GROUP

32 Graylands Road CLAREMONT WA 6010

Mobile: 0418 923 577 Office: (08) 9230 7800 Fax: (08) 9286 1944

From: Cameron Cooper [mailto:cameron@gjjgroup.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2013 5:34 PM
To: 'council@cottesloe.wa.gov.au'
Subject: Re: Development Application for Proposed Mobile Phone Towers Atop the Telstra Building at the corner of Condon Street and Stirling Highway

Attention :
Mr Ed Drewett
Senior Planning Officer
Cottesloe Council

I work for Mr Gary Johnson, the sole director of GJ Johnson Pty Ltd being the registered owner of 441 Stirling Hwy (cnr Congdon St) better known as the "Old Fire Station"

I make reference to the attached submission from Mr Anthony Cribb of 3 Congdon Street.

On behalf of Mr Johnson we strongly oppose and object to the development application currently under consideration by council for the establishment of the 2 phone towers atop the Telstra building.

We have great concerns for the unsightly and imposing effect that these 2 towers will have on the landscape and our heritage listed building as well as the significant decrease to the value of our property asset.

We fully support the submission from Mr Cribb and the grounds for objection to the application within. Further we would request that a matter of such importance and one that has such a high level of community concern should be considered by council in a open and transparent manner as detailed once again in the submission.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Cameron Cooper

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

GJJ GROUP

32 Graylands Road CLAREMONT WA 6010

Mobile: 0418 923 577 Office: (08) 9230 7800 Fax: (08) 9286 1944

Ed Drewett

From: Katie Pinnick [nbkp@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 June 2013 1:08 PM
To: Ed Drewett
Cc: nick; Kate
Subject: Proposed Telstra Towers
Attachments: Telstra Building DA application.docx

Mr Ed Drewett
Senior Planning Officer
Town of Cottesloe

Tuesday 4th June 2013

Ed

We are the owners of 9 Congdon St, Cottesloe. We would like to put on the record our strong objection to the proposed Telstra telecommunications towers for cnr Congdon St/Clive Rd.

Our reasons for objection are in line with those outlined in the attached letter from Anthony Cribb of 3 Congdon St, Cottesloe (which you already have on file).

We look forward to the council's transparency and consultation with the Cottesloe residents – that is those whose best interests they are meant to represent.

We can be contacted for further comment.

Kind regards

Katie Pinnick – 0425 286 326
Nicholas Bath – 0403 600 330

Susan Fleming and Peter Kohlen

5 Pennefather Lane

Cottesloe 6011

Mr Ed Drewett

Senior Planning Officer

Town of Claremont

PO box 606

Cottesloe 6011

31st May 2013

Dear Mr Drewett,

Re: Proposed Mobile Phone Tower

We were very surprised to hear of the proposed mobile phone towers being built at the end of our street. We have not been advised by the Council of this occurrence and find it mind boggling that a decision like this could be made without anyone allowing us the opportunity to discuss /object /comment on the matter. We believe there are several issues at stake and the tower should not be built unless all the issues have been resolved.

The issues are:

Emission's: we are not convinced that the emissions from these towers are not dangerous particularly to children.

Value of our home: the towers will have an impact on the amenity of our homes and decrease the value of our properties.

Safety : in the event of strong winds. Is there a possibility that the towers may collapse? Has a proper risk assessment been done? Does the roof, which the tower will be attached to have asbestos in it?

Aesthetic: the towers will look very ugly and industrial.

It is not appropriate to place the towers in a residential street. There are several locations around Cottesloe that are not residential which are suitable. The OBH , Claremont Quarter, Cottesloe Central, Monument Hill, Cottesloe Hotel.

There must be some concern for residents and the awareness by Council and Telstra that putting towers in residential areas is going to be fraught with problems and objections from local residents.

We thought that the Council would represent our interests and the interests of local residents before the commercial interests of Telstra and are very disappointed that we have been left out of the decision making process. We understand that any objection has to be in to the Council by June 4, which leaves us very little time to make a thorough objection.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to acknowledgement of receipt of this objection and to your reply to it.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Fleming and Peter Kohlen

Susanfleming1@hotmail.com

J A & C T Smith
6 Clive Road Cottesloe
WA 6011

Town of Cottesloe
Attn. Mr. A Jackson Ref: 5/2013.2667

Dear Sir,

My wife and I are writing this letter to voice our objection to the proposed two 7.5m telecommunication masts being erected on the existing Telstra building at 1 Congdon Street.

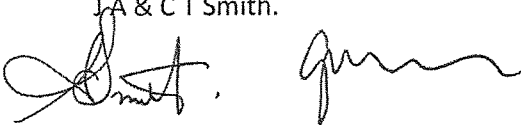
These masts will be visible from our home and to call them an "eyesore" would be an understatement! Their heights are completely out of proportion to the existing building, drawing immediate attention to them. The proposed cladding of the antennas with "faux bricks" is laughable! Telstra will have the only telephone exchange in the world with "chimneys"!

I guess at Christmas they could string up some coloured lights and place a "faux" Santa Claus at the bottom of them with his sack of presents!?

In discussions last week with Mr. Ed Drewett, it was mentioned that Telstra, to keep the height down of the telecommunication mast, it would be divided in two, each mast being 7.5m. How about Telstra dividing the height into 4 or 6 smaller masts to reduce their visibility? Even better, locate the masts in some "public" place and not amongst residential homes?

Yours faithfully,

J A & C T Smith.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and appears to be 'JA' with a flourish. The second signature is on the right and is more cursive, possibly 'CT' with a flourish. Both signatures are written in a fluid, personal style.

Ed Drewett

From: Cribb, Anthony [Anthony.Cribb@dbp.net.au]
Sent: Sunday, 2 June 2013 2:32 PM
To: Ed Drewett
Cc: 'Liesl Quince'; Tony Smith; susan fleming; Denise Curry; nbkp@bigpond.net.au; Kate; laurie@planningsolutions.com.au; Mayor-KevinMorgan; Yvonne Hart; Robert Rowell; Katie and Nick Pinnick
Subject: Proposed Mobile Phone Communication Masts Atop the Telstra Building at the corner of Congdon Street and Clive Road
Attachments: Telstra Building DA application.docx

Dear Mr Drewett

Further to my previous correspondence with you, please find attached a submission from my wife, Liesl Quince, and me, as owners of 3 Congdon Street Cottesloe.

As you will see in the letter, we have outlined our reasons for objecting to the application and request that the Council:

1. consider and determine the application in a more open and transparent manner; and
2. decide to reject the application for the reasons outlined in the submission.

If you have any questions in relation to our submission, I can be contacted on the numbers below.

Regards

Anthony Cribb & Liesl Quince

Telephone: (08) 9223 4304 | Facsimile: (08) 9223 4301 | Mobile: 0407 788 368

anthony.cribb@dbp.net.au

www.dbp.net.au

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1 June 2013

Anthony Cribb
3 Congdon Street
Cottesloe WA 6011

Mr Ed Drewett
Senior Planning Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
COTTESLOE WA 6011

By email: spo@cottesloe.wa.gov.au

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TO INSTALL TWO COMMUNICATION MASTS ATOP TELSTRA BUILDING AT 1 CONGDON STREET, COTTESLOE

We are the owners of 3 Congdon Street Cottesloe, the property adjoining the site of the proposed development referred to above ("Proposed Development").

The Council has invited us to make a submission in relation to the application made on behalf of Telstra for the Council to approve the Proposed Development ("Application").

The purpose of this letter is to:

- place on the record our objection to the Council approving the Application;
- request that the Council consider this application in an open and transparent manner; and
- request that the Council reject the Application.

GROUNDINGS FOR OBJECTING TO THE APPLICATION

The grounds of our objection are as follows:

1. Proposed Development sets dangerous town planning precedents

If the Proposed Development were to proceed, it would appear to be the first time that structures of such height would have been installed in a residential area in the Council area. We are not aware of any instance where two masts of such a height (camouflaged as faux chimneys) have been installed in a residential area comprising mostly single or double storey homes. Similarly, there does not appear to be a roof structure of any other nature erected in residential Cottesloe with height protrusions as those in the Proposed Development.

This residential location of the proposal is also at odds with the usual location of communication masts, such as atop shopping centres, high rise buildings and the like.

Accordingly, the Proposed Development sets dangerous precedents for town planning in the Council area. Namely:

- a. Other structures that are entirely not in keeping with the amenity of a residential area could be installed in residential areas.
 - b. Other developers may be able to rely on these masts as an example to justify overcoming height restrictions in residential areas, thereby leading to the amenity of residential areas being significantly compromised.
 - c. Health and safety issues of future applications may not need to be properly addressed if they are not addressed to the local community's satisfaction in this instance.
 - d. More communication masts could well be installed in residential areas that comprise mostly single and double storey residences.
2. **There are other more appropriate sites in the area on which the masts could and should be erected**

Telstra's planning consultant has advised us that the "Telstra Exchange building is the most suitable and practical site to maintain the communications need of the surrounding Cottesloe, Claremont and Peppermint Grove localities".

Telstra has failed to demonstrate that other more suitable sites in the area - particularly sites that are customarily used for the installation of communication masts - do not exist.

While we do not dispute the community's need to have in place adequate communication infrastructure, the suitability of a site involves the consideration of a number of factors over and above just the need to have reliable telecommunication services. These include protecting the health and safety of the community and the need for residential areas to be used solely for residential purposes.

It would appear that there are many more suitable sites in the area on which the communication masts could be installed. As examples, we suggest that Telstra and the Council consider the roof of the Albion Hotel, the roof of the Cottesloe Central shopping centre, the roof of the OBH Hotel or the roof of the "Claremont Quarter" shopping centre.

There are many other sites in the designated service areas of Cottesloe, Claremont and Peppermint Grove that are higher than the telephone exchange site and which would therefore offer better communication coverage.

It would be disappointing if a factor guiding site suitability was that Telstra does not have to pay compensation to install the masts on its own telephone exchange building. As a regulated service provider, the compensation that Telstra has to pay is able to be passed on

to users of its infrastructure. Accordingly, "cost" should be an irrelevant factor in assessing suitability of sites

Until Telstra can demonstrate that the Telephone Exchange site is the most suitable site for the Proposed Development (having regard to only relevant factors for assessing suitability), the Council should reject the Application.

3. Not clear that the Industry Code for mobile phone base station deployment has been complied with

We also understand that the Industry Code for mobile phone base station deployment (C564:2011) ("Code") applies in relation to the Proposed Development. A copy of the Code can be accessed at

http://commsalliance.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/32634/C564_2011.pdf.

We note that under the Code, the Council can request that Telstra provide reasonable assistance to the Council in its forward planning for the deployment of Mobile Phone Radiocommunications Infrastructure (see clause 3 of the Code). It is not clear that the Council has done this.

The assistance to be provided by Telstra includes (but is not limited to) providing the Council with an assessment of the opportunities for co-location of Mobile Phone Radiocommunications Infrastructure with the facilities of other Carriers.

We request that this engagement be undertaken by the Council, including being satisfied that there are no opportunities for co-location of the Proposed Development with other facilities of other carriers in the area.

We therefore request that the Application be rejected until that engagement has occurred.

We also draw the Council's attention to the following other aspects of the Code:

- If requested by a Council, a carrier must provide reasonable assistance to Council in the Council's forward planning for the deployment of mobile phone infrastructure.
- Telstra must have written procedures for site selection for Mobile Phone Radiocommunications Infrastructure in relation to factors contained in clause 4.1.5 of the Code (see clause 4.1.2 of the Code).
- Telstra must make available to the public (on request) the summary of the sites considered and the reasons for the selection of the preferred option (see clause 4.1.3 of the Code). We have requested this information but it is still to be provided by Telstra's planning consultant.
- To the extent that the Proposed Development is a Low RF Power Mobile Phone Radiocommunications Infrastructure (as defined in the Code), Telstra must notify the Council.
- We are assuming that because a Development Application has been made by Telstra, the consultation requirements of clauses 6 and 7 of the Code do not need to be met.

However, it is not clear whether a Development Application is required to be made by Telstra. If it does not need to make a Development Application, Telstra needs to meet the requirements of clause 6 or 7 of the Code. This does not appear to have occurred in relation to the Proposed Development. Council should satisfy itself that clauses 6 and 7 of the Code do not need to be met in relation to the Proposed Development

The Council should satisfy itself that these provisions of the Code have been complied with by Telstra. Until then, the Application should be rejected by the Council.

4. Why are two masts required?

There has been no reason given as to why two masts are required. Does this mean that Telstra intends to install twice as many mobile phone and data antennae that are normally installed on masts? If this is the case, it gives further cause for not allowing the Proposed Development to proceed in a residential area such as that around the telephone exchange.

If there is no intention to fully utilise the capacity of the masts at the outset, it is unclear for what growth in demand Telstra is allowing. The area has limited opportunity for population growth given its geographical limitations – two sides are surrounded by water – and the Council's planning restrictions which will make it hard to significantly increase population density.

If the Proposed Development initially involved a 14 metre high mast (which we understand from other stakeholders to be the case), then this suggests to us that the telephone exchange is not the most suitable site for the Proposed Development in order to meet the needs of the area.

5. Health grounds – asbestos risk

We understand from information provided by Telstra's planning consultant that the proposed masts forming part of the Proposed Development are intended to be supported on existing reinforced concrete slabs inside the Telstra building (although it is noted from the plans provided to us by the consultant that this is not certain as the slabs are yet to be assessed for their suitability). This will apparently be done by opening up the existing roof of the building.

We are aware that the existing building contains asbestos. This is evident from a sign at the main entrance to the building. It is not clear where that asbestos is located. Before the Proposed Development commences, a detailed investigation should be undertaken by an independent asbestos expert (at Telstra's expense) to assess the asbestos in the existing building.

Until such a report is prepared which either concludes that asbestos does not, in fact, exist in the building or advises on how asbestos is to be removed from the building (before the Proposed Development commences) in a manner that does not expose any of the

neighbouring community to health risks caused by interfering with asbestos, the Council should decide to reject the Application.

6. Health grounds – failure to adequately assess existing RF EME levels at site

We have been provided, by Telstra's planning consultant, a summary of the cumulative radiofrequency electromagnetic energy (RF EME) levels that are estimated to be emitted around the proposed masts that form part of the Proposed Development. A copy of that summary is enclosed as Attachment 1.

It is noted in this summary that this estimation has been made "based on the maximum mobile phone call and data capacity anticipated for this site." However, the summary also acknowledges that "the RF EME estimations do not include possible emissions from radio signal attenuation due to buildings and the general environment." This is critically important for this particular site given that it is already a telephone exchange centre for Telstra. This therefore gives rise to considerable uncertainty as to the accuracy of the estimations contained in the summary.

The Application therefore should be rejected until Telstra provides a baseline assessment of the cumulative radiofrequency electromagnetic energy levels currently being emitted from the site without the two masts being installed and that assessment showing that, together with the proposed masts, there will be no adverse effect to human health and safety.

7. Health grounds – RF EME levels at site seem to be significantly higher than those being emitted from other facilities

The RF EME levels summary from Telstra (see attachment 1) also seems to indicate that RF EME levels in a 50m to 100m radius of the proposed masts will be more than 300% higher than RF EME levels from other radio systems in the area, and in at least one site, will be over 1000% higher (see Appendix A of the Attachment 1).

If this is correct, it is not clear why residents in the vicinity of the Proposed Development are going to be exposed to such significantly more intensive levels of emissions than residents nearby other facilities.

Until this can be appropriately explained, the Council should decide to reject the Application.

8. Safety Grounds – Proposed Development will not adequately address risks to personal safety of neighbours

We have concerns about the risks to personal safety and to our adjoining properties as a result of the design and installation of the Proposed Development. It appears to us that erecting two 7.5m masts in the form of "faux" chimneys, with very little apparent support and being in very close proximity to each other, significantly increases the risk of them

falling over and either injuring or killing someone or damaging one or more of the adjoining residences.

Moreover, as noted earlier in this letter, the masts forming part of the Proposed Development are intended to be supported on existing reinforced concrete slabs inside the Telstra building. However, it is noted from the plans provided to us by the consultant that this is not certain as the slabs are yet to be assessed for their suitability.

It is not adequate, as part of a development application approvals process to be told that we should just trust the applicant to design and build the Proposed Development in accordance with required standards.

Telstra needs to demonstrate that a proper risk assessment has been undertaken to assess the risks associated with the towers falling down and to identify the treatments and controls that are proposed to be implemented to remove such risks as the risk of injury or death or the risk of damage to adjoining residences as a result of the towers falling down.

The Council must not only satisfy itself that this has been done but it also must satisfy itself that the treatments and controls identified in the risk assessment will be incorporated in the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of the masts. Concerned residents must also be able to become satisfied that a satisfactory risk assessment has been undertaken

Unless this is done, it is our view that the Council must reject the Application.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MATTER

Given the importance of the issues we have raised in this letter and the level of community concern we understand has been raised about the Application, we request that the Council consider the Application in a more open and transparent manner.

This should include the following steps being undertaken by the Council:

- before deciding the matter, the Council should have this matter included as an agenda item at one of its public meetings attended by its Councillors;
- concerned stakeholders, including residents in the area (not just those residents who live immediately adjacent to the site of the Proposed Development) should be invited to attend the meeting;
- at such a meeting, stakeholders should be afforded the opportunity to have their views expressed at the meeting; and
- the Council's decision on the Application should be made in the open meeting.

We thank you for giving us the opportunities to make this submission. If there is anything in it that requires clarification, please do not hesitate to call Anthony on 0407788368 or by email at anthony.cribb@dbp.net.au.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Cribb & Liesl Quince
3 Congdon Street

Attachment 1 – Telstra Summary

Cc:

Mr Laurie Chantry
Business Services Manager – Planning Consultant
Planning Solutions

Mr Kevin Morgan
Mayor
Town of Cottesloe

Cr Yvonne Hart
East Ward Councillor
Town of Cottesloe

Cr Rob Rowell
East Ward Councillor
Town of Cottesloe

Mr Simon Cohen
Ombudsman
Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman

State Planning Policy 3.1

**Appendix 4 - Adjoining property owner comment form
(discretionary approval application under the
Residential Design Codes)**

Residential Design Codes
Adjoining property owner comment on discretionary
approval application Ref 5/2013.2667

Adjoining property owner details

Name: G LAZDINS
 Lot no: 1 Street no: 443 Street name: STARLINE HWY
 Suburb: COTTESLOE Postcode: 6911

Location of proposed development

Name: TELSTRA BUILDING
 Lot no: 1 Street name: CONGDON ST
 Suburb: COTTESLOE Postcode: 6911

Details of matters on which council discretion is required and comment sought

Plan attached Details of proposed codes violations, or matters on which council discussion is required

Adjoining property owners comments

Have these topics been fully explained as to why:

1. DRUCK CHIMNEYS see comment 1
 2. HEALTH see comment 2
 3. CHOICE OF SITE see comment 3
 4. CLUSTERING OF PROVIDERS see comments
for comments see below ↓

Sign: G LAZDINS Date: 3/6/2013 Title: 9385 8364
 Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/6/2013 Title: 9385 8364

Note: This form is to be completed by the adjoining owner. The council will take into account the comments of adjoining owners. The council will not be held responsible for the loss of any information.

After a quick look through the proposed plans (ref. 5/2013.2667), I am left with some queries:

1. Fake 'Chimneys' 7.5m high, stick out well above all else in their environment. And an orange industrial 'faux brick' cover, will make the impact worse against a pale sky, than the white covers used elsewhere (e.g. Innaloo shopping Centre) or bare grey poles (e.g. Swanbourne). Is there a purpose to the cover other than hiding the antenna? A grey post would match better, in between streetlights and TV antennas.
2. Would there be health issues: the local council is involved only in high impact sites (ARPANSA). The ACIF code requires a precautionary approach. Having a set of 6 antennas at the Telstra building at 1 Condon street, raises concerns of continuous radiation for adjoining properties, especially within 200m, with a maximum at 60m. Referring to the Appended Environmental EME report:
 - o 3% of 100% is assumingly very low, but what are the actual values: 3% of 0.4W/m²? How is that calculated for two 60W towers? Is this an independent assessment?
 - o If the 'areas of interest' are possibly affected areas, is this a safe level for children, what is the radiation level at their height ?
 - o Could a site be found that is 'less residential'? ARPANSA states animal behaviour is changed by RF EME, although there is not enough evidence to explain why.
3. Choice of site: ordinarily these stations occupy the highest points (to exclude dead spots) and away from residences. This proposal places the strongest radiation in a residential area and
 - o The highest available site in the area is across the highway, in Claremont. Why not use this in first instance.
 - o The highest ground in Cottesloe is at the water tank park reserve on the corner of Congdon and Grant Streets, which has a lower residential density.
4. Clustering of providers: there are no towers yet. If Telstra has permission, does that mean more towers will follow and give a higher cumulative RF EME level?

Adrian and Kate Moore
8 Clive Road
COTTESLOE WA 6011

Mr Ed Drewett
Senior Planning Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
COTTESLOE WA 6011

Friday May 31st, 2013

Dear Mr Drewett,

**Re: Proposed Mobile Phone Towers Atop the Telstra Building at the corner
of Condon Street and Stirling Highway**

My family resides at 8 Clive Road in Cottesloe, at the corner of Clive Road and Pennefather Lane, which is immediately behind the Telstra building atop which it is proposed that two mobile phone towers are installed.

My husband and I strongly object to the proposal on the following grounds:

- We believe that proposed towers will not be at all safe despite Mr Chantry's assurance that "The mast will be supported internally – there will be no visible stays or guywires (refer to drawings)". I have no evidence that a proper risk assessment has been undertaken and we will remain unconvinced that the towers can be considered safe until we do receive a copy of such a risk assessment. I hope that Telstra, Cottesloe Council and Planning Solutions understand that they leave themselves open to lawsuits should no risk assessment be found to have been undertaken in the event that the towers fall. We believe that the towers will not be able to withstand the very strong winds to which they will be subjected if they are installed atop the Telstra building.
- The towers will be extremely ugly, whether they are disguised as "faux chimneys" or not. The photographs showing how the "chimneys" will look show that they will be ridiculously high and in no way "matching the existing exchange building brickwork and commensurate with the style and architecture of the building". The towers will in fact be an eyesore, visible for miles around.

- The towers will have a negative impact on the amenity of our homes and will significantly decrease the value of our properties as a result of the appallingly ugly appearance of the towers and of the perception that emissions from the towers are dangerous.
- We are not convinced that the emissions from mobile phone towers are not dangerous.
- It is not appropriate that the towers should be placed atop a building situated in a residential street. There are numerous other suitable sites for the towers, such as the roof of the Albion Hotel, the roof of the Cottesloe Central shopping centre, the roof of the OBH Hotel or the roof of the "Claremont Quarter" shopping centre. We suspect that this Telstra building has been chosen in order to avoid Telstra having to pay the owners of these other, far more appropriate sites to install the towers on their property while installation on their own property can be done no cost to Telstra.
- The towers far exceed height restrictions set by the Cottesloe Council and we are at a loss to understand why their installation should be exempt from the height restrictions that apply to all other buildings and structures in the Town of Cottesloe.
- We completely disagree with the assertion that the Telstra Exchange building is the most suitable and practical site to "maintain the communications need of the surrounding Cottesloe, Claremont and Peppermint Grove localities". All of the alternative sites I have suggested for the towers are perfectly situated to maintain our telecommunications needs.
- The fact of the Telstra building's "existing telecommunications usage" does not constitute a relevant or to any degree significant factor in the argument for installation of the towers on it. The towers are presently situated atop the Sundowner Hostel building, which has never had any telecommunications usage but has evidently previously been considered an entirely suitable location for the towers. If the Sundowner Hostel building is not as suitable as the Telstra building, why were the towers installed there in the first place, rather than atop the Telstra building?

- Why must the towers be moved to the top of the Telstra building at the request of the owners of the Sundowner Hostel building? Why might the convenience of the owners of the Sundowner Hostel building be considered ahead of the objections of the Telstra building's neighbours? On what grounds has the Council chosen to accept the request by the owners of the Sundowner Hostel building and Telstra's proposal and identification of this site as an alternative at all?
- The fact that "the proposed telecommunications infrastructure will facilitate Telstra's high-speed NextG® mobile telephone network, which will see the community enjoying improved high quality content, wireless broadband access and further mobilisation of business applications, and will also accommodate expected growth" is no doubt very reassuring to Telstra customers but of no relevance or reassurance to families residing in the houses immediately surrounding the Telstra building. It certainly does not constitute a valid reason why the towers should be installed upon this particular building rather than any other of the suitable buildings I have suggested. We therefore refute the assertion that the Telstra building is the "most suitable and practical site" for the mobile phone towers.

We are very disappointed that notice of this proposal and the opportunity to comment or object to it appears to have only been sent to the Moore, Smith and Cribb/Quince families. When we advised the other neighbouring residents of the proposal and our intention to object to it, they were surprised to hear of it and angry that they had not been informed about it. They will also register their objections to the proposal.

We are also very concerned to hear it implied that the installation of the towers is viewed as a fait accompli, regardless of any objections neighbouring resident ratepayers may have to the proposal. We believe we have the right to expect that our objections to be given proper consideration and that each of our concerns is adequately addressed before the proposal is considered appropriate for implementation. We are will also bring this matter to the attention of the Telecommunications Ombudsman.

We request that Council, Planning Solutions and Telstra address the issues we have raised and before considering implementation of this proposal, illustrate (in accordance with the Telecommunications Act) the ways in which all reasonable steps have been taken to:

- (a) to act in accordance with good engineering practice; and
- (b) to protect the safety of persons and property; and
- (c) to ensure that the activity interferes as little as practicable with:
 - (i) the operations of a public utility; and
 - (ii) public roads and paths; and
 - (iii) the movement of traffic; and
 - (iv) the use of land; and
- (d) to protect the environment.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to acknowledgement of receipt of this objection and to your reply to it.

Yours faithfully,

Katherine Moore (nee Corfield) and Adrian Moore
katemoore@iinet.net.au
0420 749 334

Cc:

Mr Laurie Chantry
Business Services Manager – Planning Consultant
Planning Solutions

Mr Kevin Morgan
Mayor
Town of Cottesloe

Cr Yvonne Hart
East Ward Councillor
Town of Cottesloe

Cr Rob Rowell
East Ward Councillor
Town of Cottesloe

Mr Simon Cohen
Ombudsman
Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman

From: Lizzie Scott [<mailto:b4before30@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2013 10:08 AM
To: Ed Drewett
Subject: Mobile Masts at Telstra Exchange

I wish to voice my concern that this proposed installation be redirected to an area that is not within close proximity to residents.

Residents have not been given any notification of this proposal.

It poses a real health risk.

The height of proposed masts are ugly and poses a real risk on an old building in an area with heavy winds at times

If it is thought that possible amalgamations of councils will have this slip through the radar, there will be huge a huge community backlash.

Do the right thing and search out appropriate options to put before a full council meeting.

Elizabeth Scott
30 McNamara Way
COTTESLOE
Sent from my iPad