Further information about EMF

Commonwealth Department of Health (ARPANSA)
www.arpansa.gov.au

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)
www.acma.gov.au

World Health Organisation (WHO)
www.who.int/en/

Consultation

Telstra have undertaken extensive consultation prior to lodgement of the development application. This includes:

- Initial discussions with Blue Mountains City Council – Early 2012
- Letter box drop to all properties in Winmalee seeking guidance in locating a suitable location for a new telecommunications facility – November 2012
- Information Kiosk held at Winmalee Shopping Centre – November 2012
- Follow up meeting with Blue Mountains City Council – December 2012
- Meeting with property owners nearby to Summerhayes Park – April 2013
- Pre Development Application meeting with Blue Mountains City Council – November 2013

Telstra intends to lodge a Development Application with the Blue Mountains City Council for the Proposed Facility in the coming weeks and is keen to receive your feedback regarding this proposal before lodging the documentation.

However, prior to this, in the interest of open and transparent information sharing, Telstra believes that the community should be kept up to date about changes to the local infrastructure.

Please provide any comments or questions you may have in relation to the Proposed Facility,

Should Telstra proceed to lodge a development application, your comments will be forwarded to Blue Mountains City Council (although you may also have the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Council as part of the approval process).

Contacts

Any further questions/feedback in relation to the Proposed Facility should be directed in writing to Jon Mills at the address below or via email to jmills@urbis.com.au:

Urbis Pty Ltd (On behalf of Telstra)

GPO Box 5278

Sydney, NSW, 2001

Alternatively you can contact Jon Mills directly on (02) 8233 9923.

PROPOSED TELSTRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT SUMMERHAYES PARK, 326-340 HAWKESBURY RD WINMALEE NSW 2777

February 2014

IT'S HOW WE CONNECT

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL FOR WINMALEE?

Telstra is writing to inform you of an important improvement to its mobile service with the proposed installation of a telecommunications facility at Summerhayes Park (Proposed Facility).

The Proposed Facility will comprise the following:

- The construction of a 35m monopole,
- The attachment of six (6) x 2.53m panel antennas installed on a headframe at the top of the monopole with provision for six (6) x 2.53m panel antennas to be installed at a future date,
- The attachment of six (6) remote radio units [518mm (H) x 470mm (W) x 187mm (D)] to be installed on the headframe behind the antennas,
- New equipment shelter [3.28m (H) x 2.28m (W) x 3m (L)] to be located at ground level.

The proposal requires Development Approval from Blue Mountains City Council in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The Proposed Facility has been strategically sited between existing Telstra sites to enhance network performance in the Winmalee area.

The location of the Proposed Facility is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Blue Mountains City Local Environmental Plan 2005 and is considered to be appropriate for the following reasons:

- The proposal will improve 3G communications services to the area, including voice calling, video calling and Wireless Broadband - a high speed wireless internet service via the 3G phone network.
- The proposal will also introduce 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology which will provide increased data speed, and enhanced mobile services to Winmalee.
- The surrounding area is zoned Recreation –

Open Space and Environmental Protection – Open Space.

- The proposal will not require the removal of any vegetation.
- The site will be positioned adjacent to an existing area of landscaped trees which will assist with minimising visual impact.
- The existing on site vegetation will provide partial screening of the Proposed Facility when viewed from the surrounding residential area and reduce the potential visual impact.
- The proposal would provide the surrounding area with a significantly improved level of essential mobile and wireless telecommunications coverage.
- Based on consultation with the residents of Winmalee, the site is favoured by the majority of residents who responded, as the preferred location for a new telecommunications facility.

Why does Telstra need a new facility at Winmalee?

Telstra constantly monitors our network for usage and performance. Winmalee needs to have additional mobile network infrastructure installed to meet increasing demand on our network by our customers. The Proposed Facility is an important part of Telstra's infrastructure upgrade program in the Blue Mountains which includes adding capacity to the existing sites which serve the area, as well as looking at installing new sites.

At Winmalee, Telstra needs to provide improved coverage and add capacity to the network to improve and maintain local mobile network services (including voice calling and SMS), as well as video calling, video-based content services (like news, finance and sports highlights) and internet browsing via its NextG® network.

Telstra understands that some locations where we need to place our facilities are more sensitive than others. Telstra works diligently to find a balance between providing high quality services

and minimising our impact on the community and the local environment. In selecting the site, in addition to technical requirements, Telstra has taken into account a number of other important non-technical criteria, including:

- the potential to co-locate at an existing telecommunications facility;
- the potential to locate on an existing building or structure;
- the visual impact on the surrounding area and the need to obtain relevant town planning approvals;
- the proximity to community-sensitive locations and areas of environmental heritage or significance; and
- the type of and ability to secure tenure at the site.

How do Mobile Phone Networks Work?

To explain why mobile network carriers place facilities at specific locations, it is important to first explain a little about how a mobile network works.

A mobile communications network is made up of a patchwork of cells covering a geographic area. They work by sending and receiving low power radio signals from antennas that are attached to mobile phone base stations. When you make a call or try to download content, your handset or data modem will usually "talk" to the facility nearest to you – as you move outside of that cell, the phone will "talk" to adjoining facilities located in different cells. Telstra's network is made up of many low-powered facilities located on the

rooftops of commercial buildings, clubs, apartment buildings, hospitals, industrial buildings, sports complexes, and on existing infrastructure such as light poles, high voltage electricity towers and telecommunications towers that are positioned throughout the community to provide reliable, continuous network coverage for both local customers and those travelling through the area.

There are many factors which can cause a call drop-out or slow data speeds while you are transferring content. Some of these are now explained.

First, you may be too far away from a facility to pick up a phone signal, or there may be objects blocking the signal from the nearest facility – such as hills, large buildings or even trees. Second, the facility may be handling as many calls as it can manage – call drop-outs and slower data speeds can occur when too many customers are using the available resources of a facility at once. Third, the depth of coverage (which affects the ability to make calls inside buildings), may be insufficient in some local areas.

Base Stations and Health

Telstra understands that some people have genuine concerns about the levels of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) that the Proposed Facility will emit and is committed to addressing those concerns responsibly. EMF is sometimes known as electromagnetic radiation (EMR) or electromagnetic energy (EME). Electromagnetic fields are present everywhere in our environment – the earth, sun and ionosphere are all natural sources of EMF. We rely on the expert advice of international and national health authorities including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) for overall assessments of health and safety impacts.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has issued guidelines on levels of allowable public exposure to Radio Frequency (RF) fields, including guidelines on RF from mobile phones and base stations that Telstra adheres to. These guidelines have a large safety margin built into them.

In addition further information is available at:

http://www.telstra.com.au/eme and EMF

Explained Series www.emfexplained.info

Does the Proposed Facility meet the ARPANSA safety limit?

It is Telstra's responsibility to comply with the mandated standard (RPS 3) for EMF set by ARPANSA, which is based on the safety guidelines recommended by the WHO.

The safety standard works by limiting the network signal to a level low enough to protect all people, in all environments, 24 hours a day. The safety limit itself has a significant safety margin built into it.

To demonstrate compliance with the safety standard, a Predictive EME Report is available via the RFNSA website:

http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2777006.

This report predicts the maximum signal strength from the Proposed Facility at 1.5m above ground level, is 0.19% of the allowable limit that it is permitted to transmit over a 24 hour period.

This level is well below maximum limits specified in the safety guidelines and consistent with the advice from ARPANSA in their fact sheet "9" on mobile base stations dated July 2102.

"Mobile phone base stations and telecommunications towers produce weak radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic energy (EME) exposure levels. The weight of national and international scientific opinion is that there is no substantiated evidence that RF emissions associated with living near a mobile phone base station or telecommunications tower poses a health risk"

ARPANSA Fact sheet 9 July 2012

to Telstra by no later than 21st March 2014.