

[REDACTED]
Cattai, NSW

2756

Date: 6th April 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in relation to the amendments to the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (SEPP). My comments are based on my experiences with NBN Co in relation to the installation of towers in our community.

It seems that NBN Co can erect towers where ever they choose with no accountability to community or government agencies. Once NBN Co select a site and gain approval from the owner there is very little that can be done to stop the erection of the tower.

Neighbours and the community can object to the erection of a tower and this has resulted in community meetings, but it seems these were only set up to appease the community and the comments and concerns have no impact.

It seems very unusual that they do not need to submit a DA to the local council or submissions to any government authority as everyone else is required to do, they seem to be a law unto themselves with no checks or balances in place or approvals required. The local community seems to be the only ones who monitor what they are doing but unfortunately our hands are tied and voices ignored when opposition is raised to these towers.

NBN Co should be required to submit an environmental study as part of a DA approval process before these very large and obtrusive towers can be erected. A cost analysis and feasibility study should also be provided to the federal government justifying the erection of a tower instead of underground fibre optics, which have speeds far greater than towers.

The community is becoming more and more concerned with the health risks associated with the electromagnetic energy generated by mobil and NBN towers. There is now evidence showing that the health risks from these towers is much greater than previously found and that the Australian standard has not been updated in accordance with this evidence to ensure this risk is addressed. Also we need to be mindful that smoking and asbestos didn't appear to have health risks years ago, look at the health issues associated with these products now.

Thankfully this concern with electromagnetic energy has been addressed by the Department of Education who's policy states that towers emitting electromagnetic energy should not be erected within 500 meters of a school due to the risks to the children. This minimum distance of 500 meters from a tower emitting electromagnetic energy to a dwelling (house) should be written into the legislation and standard to safeguard both the children and adults living in the dwelling (house).

I thank you for the review of the installation of NBN towers and trust that this submission can be of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Nicholas