

Submission from



Date 11th September 2023

Submission: Consultation on possible amendments to Pit and Pipe Exemption Criteria.

Regarding the above: I own rural residential land at [REDACTED] Glenorie 2157
Situated on outskirts of Sydney in Hills Shire Council area.

In 2018 a development application was made to subdivide portion of my land into two lots with a minor piece of land being approx. 180m² also dedicated to council for roadworks. This then was called a three-lot subdivision. Being 43acres, 25acres and approx. 180m² road dedication

One of the conditions in the approval was to supply pits and pipes. The area had been notified that fibre cable would not be supplied and internet was to be obtained via Skymuster satellite.

I then applied to Dept of Infrastructure for an exemption that was granted and was listed on the list of exemptions. However, I was then informed by Council that in order to obtain the provisioning agreement to state that services would be supplied to the newly to be created 43acre lot I would need Telstra to sign the relevant paperwork. Telstra then said even though I was exempt from the fibre cable NBN that did not mean that I was exempt from supplying pits and pipes with the copper cabling to be taken to the boundary of the newly created lot. Telstra copper wires were supplied half way up the street via overhead cabling. I was compelled to then connect to these overhead wires taking them from that point underground at great depth through solid rock and under a road and then through a bush footpath for approx. 150metres to the boundary of the newly created lot.

They were redundant from the day they were installed. This was at an approx. cost of \$36,000

The process was handled by Telstra farming out to three different contractors for the approval of the three so called stages. This was just to get each stage inspected. I still had to employ contractors to do the actual work. The liaison was a nightmare and time-consuming adding to the delay in approval by Council of the two-lot subdivision. Ridiculous waste of time and money.

Telstra had not even looked after the 4 properties that were connected to this overhead cable
The cable used to lie on the ground for years and if any phone breakdowns occurred it was a nightmare to get them repaired. Telstra wont even connect a land line to a new property in our street any more.

I am wanting to see definite changes made to this Part 20A of this Telecommunications Act 1997.

Where Fibre Optic is not going to be connected and internet service is to be via Satellite or Wi-Fi then it serves no purpose to insist that pits and pipes be supplied to a development.

The cost of such a demand adds to the eventual cost of land that could be better spent supplying a service that would benefit not waste.

Please make amendments to this Telecommunications Act 1997 to remove the necessity for pits and pipes where internet is supplied by Satellite or Wi-Fi



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