From: @team.telstra.com>

**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 10:20 AM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

Subject: RE: SEN MBSPPL-NSW- 011- Fig Tree Hill

Attachments: MBSPPL-NSW-011 - Fig Tree Hill Site Event Notification - 20191007.docx

#### Word version attached

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 6:02 PM

To:s47F

Subject: SEN MBSPPL-NSW- 011- Fig Tree Hill

Dear Stakeholder,

The following issue has been identified for Mobile Black Spot Programme - MBSPPL-NSW-011- Fig Tree Hill

#### Please find attached documentation:

- Site is Scenario B on road and rail coverage metrics
- On balance this provides a coverage solution to required objective.

Seeking your agreement to vary Schedule 2.



s47F

Program Manager- Networks Delivery | Telstra Operations |

s47F

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sender of its incorrect delivery, and then delete both it and your reply

#### SITE EVENT NOTIFICATION AND VARIATION TO THE ASSET AND SPECIFICATIONS

Notification Type	☐ Site Frustration Event Notification	
	☐ Notification Only	
	☑ Variation	
	☐ Extension of Time	

[This notice is to be used by the Commonwealth and the Funding Recipient where a tower cannot be built at a particular Site because of a "Site Frustration Event" and an alternative Site is being proposed. The alternative Site can be either a "Scenario A" or a "Scenario B" site as described below. Different processes apply for Scenario A and Scenario B sites. This notice is also to be used for Variations to the Asset and Specifications.]

Summary of variation proposed (Detail of the variation is set out in Attachment A)	<ul> <li>Variation from the transport coverage outcomes stated in Schedule 2.</li> <li>Premises, hand held and external coverage metrics are met or above the predicted coverage, but does not meet transport road and rail metric.</li> <li>Site move of 2km</li> <li>Tower height increase of 15m</li> </ul>
Reasons for variation	s47G
	The contract nominated location could not be acquired.
Evidence in support of variation	s47G
	The proposed location is the only other willing land owner willing to have a telco facility located on their land  Please refer to attached coverage Maps
Steps taken or proposed to be taken by Funding Recipient to mitigate the issue	Increase the tower height from 35m to 50m
Additional Funding sought	Not Applicable
Proposed Date for Asset Completion	

You must complete **Attachment A**. Other relevant **Attachments** will be location maps and maps of the original and changed coverage.

# ATTACHMENT A - CHANGES PROPOSED BY FUNDING RECIPIENT TO SCHEDULE 2

	Original details	New details proposed by Funding Recipient	Difference (%)	
Item 1 – General information				
Funded Solution Identifier	MBSPPL-NSW-11	MBSPPL-NSW-11	No change	
Priority Location	Fig Tree Hill	Fig Tree Hill	No change	
Site	Howell Howell -29.926881 -29.944834		No change	
Designated Location	-29.926881	-29.944834	0.0441/	
(latitude and longitude)	151.037122	151.039660	2.011Km	
Item 2 – Specifications			4	
Auxiliary Back-Up Power Supply (hours)	12	12	No change	
Co-location Suitability	T+1	T+1	No change	
Tower Height (metres)	35	50	+15m	
Type of Backhaul (M: Microwave, F: Fibre)	Microwave	Microwave	Microwave	

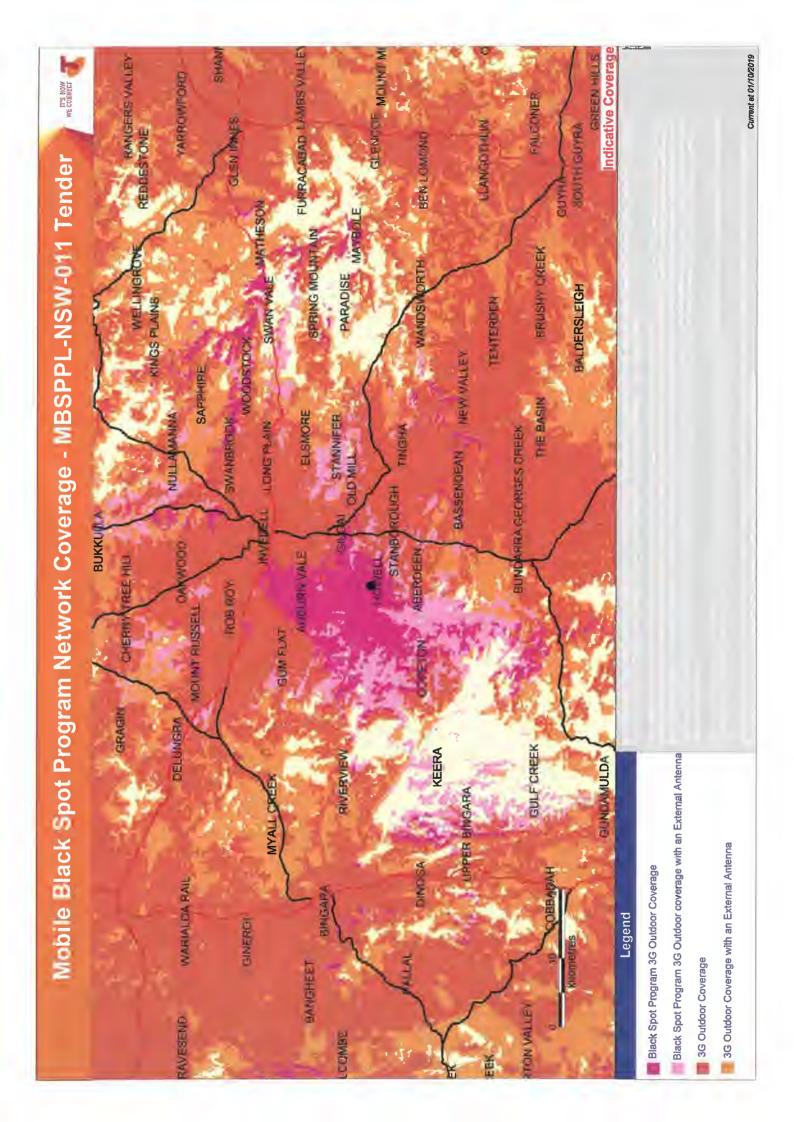
s47G **s47G** 

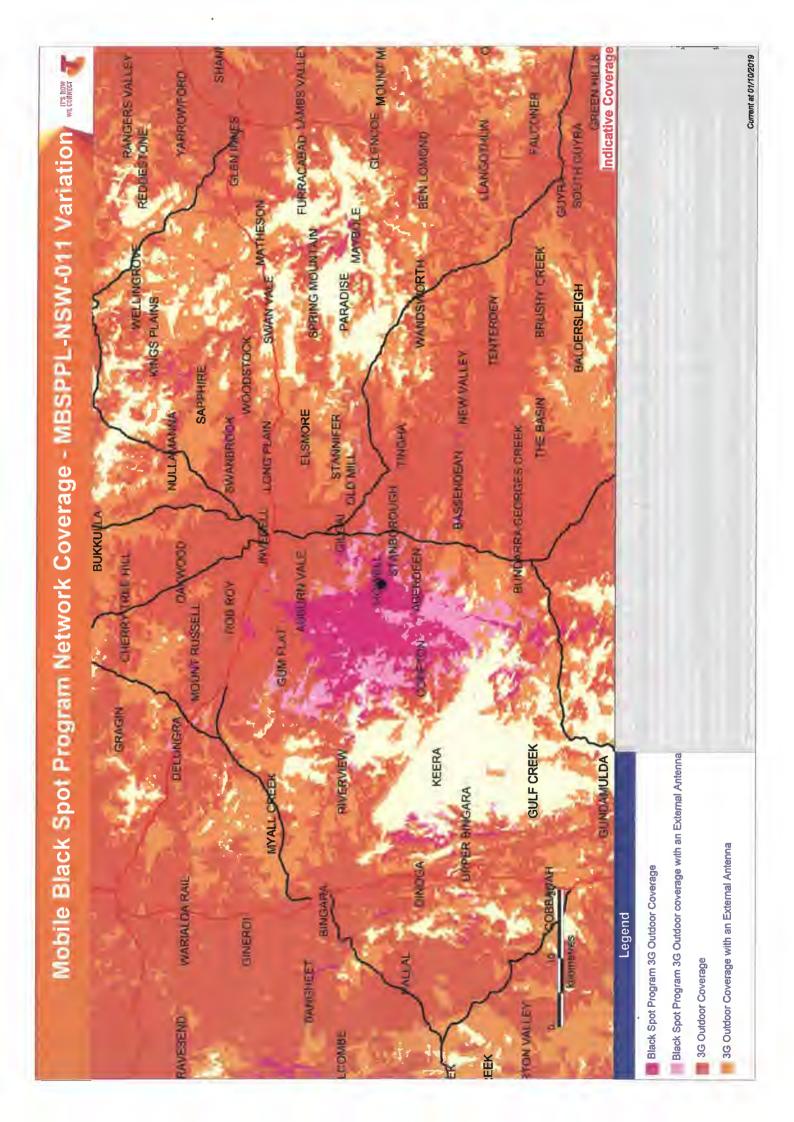
Item 4 – Quality of Service (for Funded Solutions designed to improve quality of service)				
Quality of Service Solution	N/A			

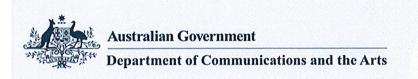
Original covera	rage map	☑ Provided □ Provided ☑ Provided .g. development application re	□ Not Ap	oplicable oplicable oplicable
Certification:				
Signed for the fund	ing recipient by its autho	orised representative:		
Signature:	s47F	Date:	16 /	10 / <b>2019</b>
Print Name:		Position:	MBSP National Manager	al Programme
Approval:				4
The variation is:	□ approved	□ not approved		
Comments:				
		1		
Approved on beha	alf of the <b>Commonweal</b>	th:		
Signature:		Date:	1	1
Print Name:		Position:		

Location Map











# **PLR MBSP Site Frustration Event / Variation**

Date variation is submitted	17.10.2019
Funding recipient	Telstra
Site identifier and PLR name	MBSPPL-NSW-11 Fig Tree Hill
Quality of Service issue	No. Coverage only
Black Spot identifier / Site	NSW - 0592 Fig Tree Hill
Schedule 1 Completion Date	Schedule 2: Dec 2018; Cwealth; EoT approval June 2019: Dec 2019
Previous SFE/Variation Submitted	N/A

# **Analysis**

S	4	7	G
3	4	•	J

#### **Comments**

Fig Tree Hill is a coverage issue only. The identified coverage issue relates to poor handheld coverage to the West of Fig Tree Hill.

Telstra propose to move the base station 2.011 km south from the original Schedule 2 location. Telstra have explored a number of potential sites and this location is the only option where the land owner is willing to agree to have a telecommunications facility located on their land. s47G

#### s47,G

s47G Telstra report that there is no direct access to the proposed location and there is significant clearing required for access and power.

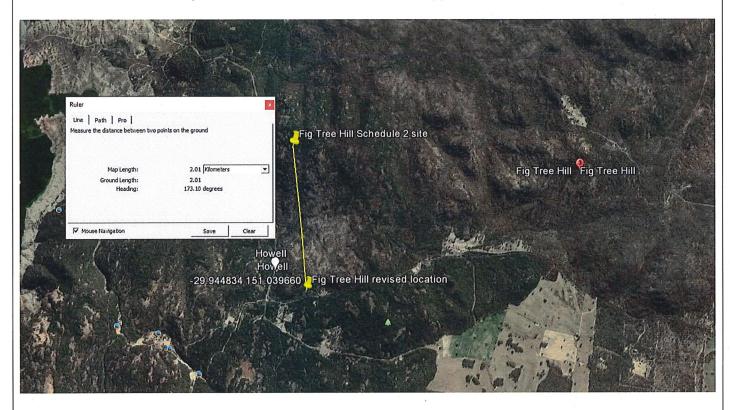
#### s47G

Telstra's variation map shows the hand held coverage will extend north of Fig Tree Hill to Auburn Vale, and to the West of Fig Tree across the eastern section of Copeton Dam. The black spot at Howell, south-west of Fig Tree is also predicted to receive handheld coverage from this solution. The Telstra maps from this site and the Copeton Dam site indicate that there will be overlapping Telstra coverage from these sites. Telstra will need to ensure there is no interference from the two sites.

# s47G

In June 2019, the Commonwealth provided approval to extend the completion date for this base station until December 2019. However given the expected delays in planning approvals, a further extension of time will be required for this site.

This solution is predicted to provide new and improved coverage to the West of Fig Tree Hill as predicted in Telstra's 'as built' map and provide safety and social benefits to workers, fisherman and holiday makers to the area. It also complements the coverage predicted to be received from the Copeton Dam Priority location and also provides a solution to the Howell blackspot. This variation is recommended for approval.





Recommended by:

Date: 29/10/2019.

Noting the reduction in predictive roads coverage, the base station is still predicted to provide very good coverage outcomes to the Fig Tree Hill priority location as intended. This base station will also provide complementary coverage to the adjacent appeter dam site funded moder the

Mofram 547F

From: communications.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2019 10:23 AM

To: \$47

Cc:

**Subject:** RE: SEN MBSPPL-NSW- 011- Fig Tree Hill [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Attachments: Cwealth approval Fig Tree HIII 29.10.2019.pdf

s47F

Please find attached the Commonwealth's approval for the Fig Tree Hill variation.

Regards





s47F

Assistant Director/ Mobile Black Spot Program/ Regional Deployment Branch Department of Communications and the Arts

s47F

communications.gov.au

2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 2154 Canberra, ACT 2601

communications.gov.au / @CommsAu arts.gov.au / @artsculturegov

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

From: S47F

Sent: Friday, 18 October 2019 10:20 AM

To: S47F

Subject: RE: SEN MBSPPL-NSW- 011- Fig Tree Hill

Word version attached

From: S47F

Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 6:02 PM

To: \$47F

Subject: SEN MBSPPL-NSW- 011- Fig Tree Hill

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Please find attached documentation:

- Site is Scenario B on road and rail coverage metrics
- On balance this provides a coverage solution to required objective.

Seeking your agreement to vary Schedule 2.



s47F

Program Manager- Networks Delivery | Telstra Operations | s47F

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# SITE EVENT NOTIFICATION AND VARIATION TO THE ASSET AND SPECIFICATIONS

Notification Type	☐ Site Frustration Event Notification
	☐ Notification Only
	☑ Variation
	☐ Extension of Time
articular Site because of a "Site F ite can be either a "Scenario A" or	ommonwealth and the Funding Recipient where a tower cannot be built at a rustration Event" and an alternative Site is being proposed. The alternative r a "Scenario B" site as described below. Different processes apply for This notice is also to be used for Variations to the Asset and Specifications.]
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proposed (Detail of the variation is set out in Attachment A)	<ul> <li>Schedule 2.</li> <li>Premises, hand held and external coverage metrics are met or above the predicted coverage, but does not meet transport road and rail metric.</li> <li>Site move of 2km</li> <li>Tower height increase of 15m</li> </ul>
Reasons for variation	s47G
Evidence in support of	The contract nominated location could not be acquired.
variation	0-17 O
	The proposed location is the only other willing land owner willing to have a telco facility located on their land
	Please refer to attached coverage Maps
Steps taken or proposed to be taken by Funding Recipient to mitigate the issue	Increase the tower height from 35m to 50m
Additional Funding sought	Not Applicable

You must complete **Attachment A**. Other relevant **Attachments** will be location maps and maps of the original and changed coverage.

Proposed Date for Asset Completion

# ATTACHMENT A - CHANGES PROPOSED BY FUNDING RECIPIENT TO SCHEDULE 2

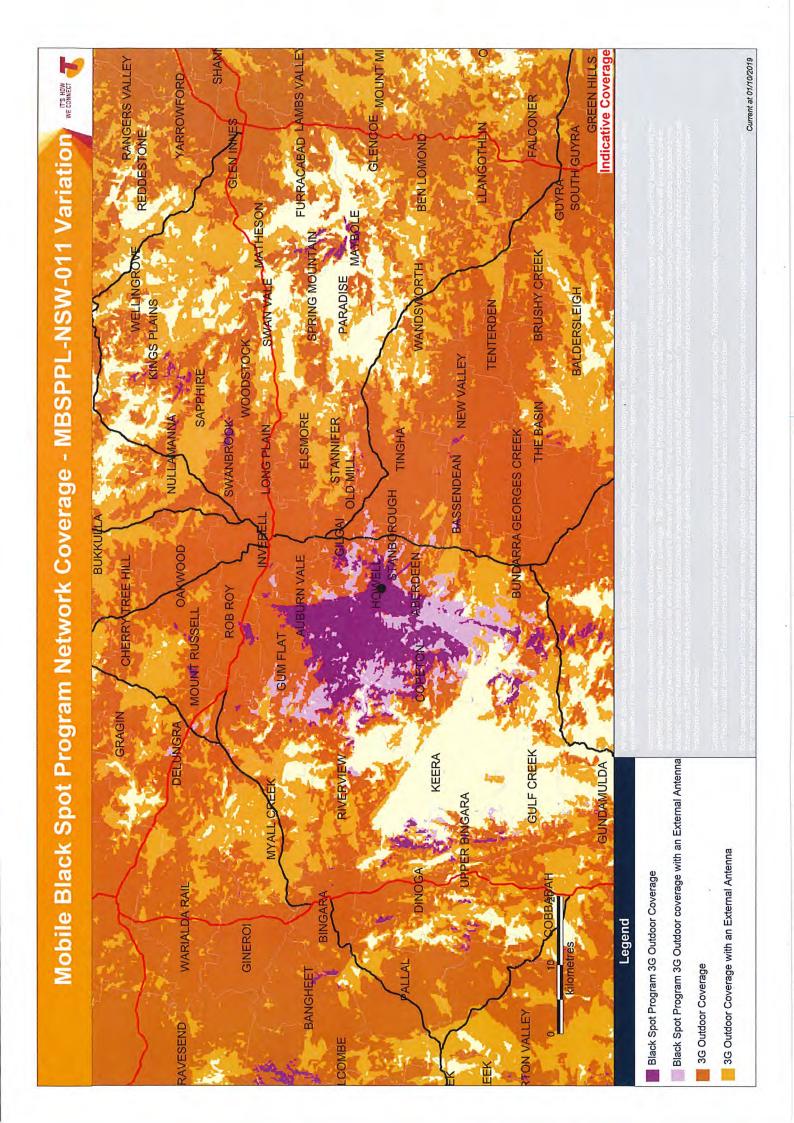
	Original details	New details proposed by Funding Recipient	Difference (%)	
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Funded Solution Identifier	MBSPPL-NSW-11	MBSPPL-NSW-11	No change	
Priority Location	Fig Tree Hill	Fig Tree Hill	No change	
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Designated Location	-29.926881	-29.944834		
(latitude and longitude)	151.037122	151.039660	2.011Km	
Item 2 – Specifications				
Auxiliary Back-Up Power Supply (hours)	12	12	No change	
Co-location Suitability	T+1	T+1	No change	
Tower Height (metres)	35	50	+15m	
Type of Backhaul (M: Microwave, F: Fibre)	Microwave	Microwave	Microwave	

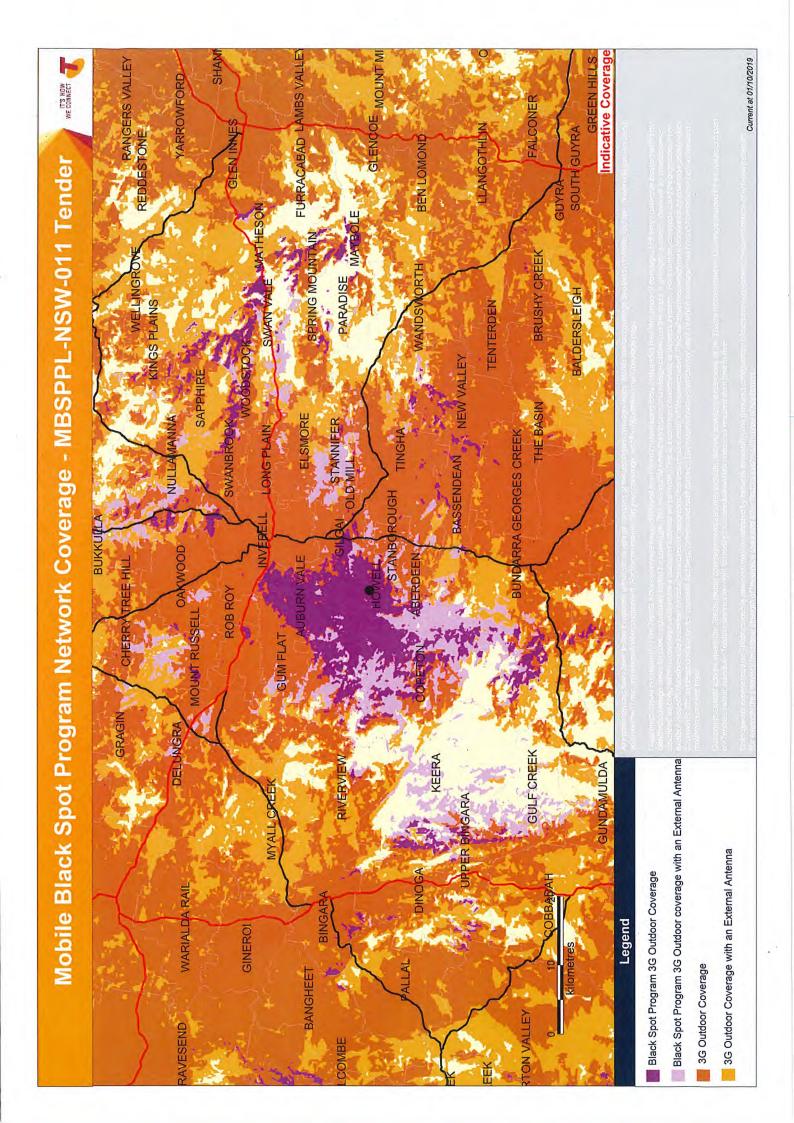
s47G

Item 4 – Quality of Service (for Funded Solutions designed to improve quality of service)				
Quality of Service Solution		N/A		

Attachments:					
Location map (	e.g. Google Earth)	☑ Pr	ovided	□ Not App	olicable
Original coverage map Proposed coverage map		☐ Provided		□ Not App	
Other evidence	rage map (insert description - e.ç		ovided nt application :	☐ Not Apprefusal):	olicable
	<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>				
Certification:					
Signed for the fund	ing recipient by its author	ised represent	ative:		
Signature:	s47F		Date:	16 /	10 / <b>2019</b>
Print Name:			Position:	MBSP National Manager	l Programme
Approval:	1	,			
The variation is:	i⊒approved	□ n	ot approved		
	Voting change.			A	road metrics
to pro	rity location	red to pr as in her	ovide go	ca coverage	; outcomes
Approved on beha	alf of the Commonwealth	ı.			
Signature:	s47F		Date:	29/1	0 12019
				1	0 12019 2 MBSP
Print Name:			Position:	DIRECTOR	2 MBSP

Location Map





From: media < media@communications.gov.au >
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2019 10:26 AM

To: s47F

Cc:

**Subject:** FW: Inverell Times [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi All,

FYI – please see the below information from Telstra regarding a recent enquiry.

Kindest regards,

s47F

#### For Official Use Only

From: S47F

Sent: Friday, 6 December 2019 10:20 AM

To: media Cc: s47F

**Subject:** Inverell Times

Good morning,

You may have seen this particular article <u>published</u> yesterday on the Inverell Times website (recently updated). The original query is below. The journalist had originally sought comment from VisionStream however we responded accordingly. This particular site is also the subject of MP queries to us on behalf of the same objectors / complainants.

#### Our response was:

- Under the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program, we are proposing to install two mobile towers at Howell and Copeton, to provide mobile coverage for customers in the area.
- This follows more than a year of assessing around 30 possible locations, and discussions with a large number of landowners within the area.
- No final decisions have been made, and the community has until 18 December to provide feedback on the proposal.
- We understand the community is genuinely concerned about the health effects from Electromagnetic Energy (EME), which is why we design our base stations to comply with the most stringent EME safety standards.

#### **Background**

Our community consultation involves:

- a sign on the public road the tower site is adjacent to;
- letters to property owners in the surrounding area; and
- a webpage for the tower site that includes plans and information on the proposal

A member of the community can request additional time to make a submission. Any changes to the consultation end date will be published on Radio Frequency National Site Archive (RFNSA) <u>website</u>. Residents can provide

feedback via phone at 1300 745 210, email at <a href="mailto:twp\_qldplanning@visionstream.com.au">twp\_qldplanning@visionstream.com.au</a> or post at PO Box 5452, West End QLD 4101.

The proposed Mobile Phone Base Stations form part of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP). The need for the site was chosen from locations listed in a Federal Government database of mobile black spot sites community members reported and identified. More information on the program can be found at <a href="https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program">www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program</a>

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out,

Thanks,

s47F

Corp Reltns & Sustain-Senior Specialist Campaign SR Legal and Corporate Affairs, Telstra

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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If I've sent it to you by accident, please delete it immediately



# **ORIGINAL QUERY:**

From: S47F

Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2019 10:16 AM

To: \$47F

Subject: Copeton Dam mobile phone tower

Hi s47F

As per our short conversation, I am hoping to grab a few quotes from someone from Visionstream regarding a few complaints residents around the proposed tower site have aired with me.

Obviously, I would like the article to be balanced and while these residents are not objecting to the idea of service for Copeton, they'd rather it not be within 200 metres of their home.

Basically, my questions are around community consultation and a few claims these residents have made. I'll list them below. I am on deadline today, so I was hoping to get a response ASAP.

Can you tell me know many towers will be constructed?

What will the community consultation involve?

How much notice was given to residents regarding the proposal?

When does feedback/consultation end?

How can residents give feedback?

How was the tower site chosen, and why that exact location?

Is there other possible site locations?

Being within 290 odd metres from someone's front door, could this have an effect on their land value?

Is there any known health impacts related to the radiation let out by the tower? Should they be worried about potential health impacts?

Thanks,



A 166 Byron Street, Inverell, NSW, 2360 W www.inverelltimes.com.au

From: S47F

Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 5:22 PM

To: Cc: S47F

**Subject:** MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**Attachments:** Schedule 1 - Letter consultation.pdf; Schedule 2 - Sign on site.pdf; Schedule 3 - Newspaper articles regarding Telstra proposal.pdf; Schedule 4 - Email advising of

extension to consultation 2019.12.16.pdf

Please see the reply below.

Regards,

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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From: S47F

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:57 PM

ToS47F Cc: S47F

**Subject:** MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi s47F

Response below to the questions asked by \$47F

• Are there any alternative sites for this base station? For instance, other locations on nearby State owned land?

There are no alternative candidates that have been identified that balance all considerations better than the subject site. Alternative candidates in the area (see below) have been removed from further consideration due to issues associated with bringing power to the site, height (and so coverage) access, tenure, buildability and environmental impacts. The subject site provides a location that meets the coverage objectives of the project, will allow for connection to the wider telecommunications networks, has minimal environmental impacts, is within acceptable proximity to power, is able to be built upon and is an appropriate distance from residences.

• The council proposed an alternative site, including an offer to contribute to associated costs. Why wasn't this offer taken up?

The offer from the local government was for \$10,000 in power and \$10,000 in access. The specific location for the site is at the top of Fig Tree Hill and is heavily vegetated without a formal access path/track. Assessments of the power network in the area have shown that the nearest high voltage line is 2km to the south-west, 2.7km to the south-east and 3.6km to the east, each as the crow flies. Each of these power options would require the extension

of existing power through other properties and in some cases, multiple properties, before it could be extended to the Fig Tree Hill property. Each property would likely require individual negotiation and discussion before any extension could even commence, including consideration for potential amenity impacts on the landholders. This also does not include consideration for the environmental impacts and issues with large-scale clearing that would be required from most of these existing lines. The most suitable extension from the existing high-voltage line is approximately 4.5km. This does not compare favourably to the subject site for the proposed facility, which requires a power extension of approximately 600m. Areas around the suggested location on Fig Tree Hill appear quite steep from available topographical data and this extends to the suggested location itself, with some locations having an average slope of nearly 20%. Given the topographical issues on the site, access by construction vehicles is likely to be difficult at best even via a circuitous route, and would likely still require significant earthworks and clearing. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

> Visionstream has communicated that a site \$47F was assessed, but was found to have concerns about environmental impacts to gain access, power availability, and gaining tenure. Could you provide detail to support these concerns?

An assessment of a possible alternate site was undertaken \$47F

This area was selected for initial assessment due to a variety of factors including its distance from residences, its height, its location in an existing cleared area and its proximity to the original contract location. While the cleared area was assessed as being potentially suitable for the tower, further assessment raised significant concerns with the apparent exposed rock of the site, the extent of environmental impacts required to gain access to the location and the and environmental impacts from taking power 1km away. Recent discussions with the landowner have confirmed they are not interested in having the proposal located in a cleared area in the north-east of their property which is closer to power and at a likely appropriate height. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

> Another alternative site on the \$47F was also considered in an initial assessment, and found unsuitable due to the lower height, anticipated need for vegetation clearing and land tenure. Could you also provide detail to support these concerns?

With regards to the second alternate site, \$47F

s47F

s47F

we can advise that the most suitable location is likely at or around \$47F This areas was considered suitable as it is close to an existing point of supply for power and appears unlikely to require clearing for the facility or for bushfire hazard prevention purposes. Other areas on the site, particularly to the north are higher, but would require significant vegetation clearing for access, for the facility itself, for bushfire hazard prevention, for power, and would require a power run longer than the currently proposed site. The most likely location however appears to be situated on an area of exposed rock, and is 15m lower than the existing site, potentially requiring a higher tower to provide the same extent of coverage. The site would also require greater vegetation clearing for access and power purposes than the currently proposed site. The site is also understood to be owned by the Government of NSW, and so would require protracted tenure negotiations, including specific consideration for the land claim by the local aboriginal council that is understood to be over the land. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

- What was the community consultation process undertaken for this tower?
  - Our complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on the sign, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA

Consultation for this site occurred from 26 November 2019 to 24 January 2020, a period exceeding 50 days. **Consultation included:** 

- Emails to interested and affected parties on 26 November 2019
- Letters express posted (tracked and no-signature on delivery) to landholders within 650m of the proposal on 26 November 2019 (see Schedule 1)
- Emails to the local government on 26 November 2019

- Emails to the Mayor of the local government on 26 November 2019
- An A2 sign placed on the public road adjacent to the proposal on 26 November 2019, replaced on 17
   December 2019 after being reported missing on week earlier on 9 December 2019, and then not replaced after being reported missing on 20 January 2020 (Schedule 2)
- A site specific webpage on RFNSA, published 26 November and updated periodically during the consultation process

The consultation as initially planned was sent the local government for review, as required under Industry Code *C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment*. The local government did not identify any issues with this consultation plan and provided addresses for landowners in the area.

In addition to the above, the local newspaper the Inverell Times published two stories on the proposal, one on December 2 and one on December 4 (updated December 5 2019) (see Schedule 3).

Signs were staked on Howell Road immediately adjacent to the proposed facility site, preserving the immediate verge area so as not to present a safety hazard while still being visible to passing vehicles (see Schedule 2). Howell Road serves as the main access between Thunderbolts Way and Howell Road closest to Copeton Dam. The signs were located in positions where there was suitable space for a vehicle to pull over to the side of the road to inspect the signs. While there was a 6 business day delay between the sign being reported as missing and a new sign being placed on the site, the remote nature of the location and the bushfires at the time presented a challenge for our field managers in replacing the sign any sooner.

Regarding the consultation date on the signs, the consultation end date was correct when the original sign was installed at the site. The replacement sign on 17 December 2019 included the consultation end date correct at the time, being 13 January 2020. This sign was not updated for the final consultation extension due to bushfires that continued to threaten the transport route of our field managers, and as the signs and other consultation material directed members of the community to view the RFNSA page, which included additional information on the site, including extensions to consultation dates.

Regarding the RFNSA page, extensions to the consultation date were included in both a specific announcement and within the main body of the site-specific RFNFSA page. While all extensions to the consultation dates were published on the RFNSA page as quickly as possible it is acknowledged that an extension to the consultation period made on Friday 10 January was not updated on the RFNSA page until Tuesday 14 January. Telstra is not aware of any issues this made to the consultation process.

Regarding the communication of extensions, the initial letters to the community and interested and affected parties notified them of the RFNSA page for the proposal as being the location to be provided on additional information and updates on the proposal. On 16 December 2019, emails about an extension to 13 January 2020 was sent to residents who were awaiting submission responses, who had requested an extension or who had recently provided a submission (see Schedule 4). Similar emails were also provided to select interested and affected parties and the Council. These emails specifically noted the extension period, that the RFNSA page was the location to find out about further extensions or updates, and included a link to the RFNSA page. The second extension was communicated on 10 December 2019 to the submitter who requested it, and published on the RFNSA page for the site. It should also be noted that both Inverell Times stories regarding the proposal also included a link to the RFNSA page and a statement that this was the webpage to check for further information and updates (see Schedule 3).

The resident/submitter referenced by \$47F s understood to have had nearly a dozen phone conversations with planners at Visionstream regarding his concerns, in addition to 13 emails (not including emails simply acknowledging submissions). Visionstream also had discussions with the submitter after the consultation period closed, and organised for the submitter to talk to a third-party physicist regarding their concerns.

Could Telstra confirm that they have complied with all obligations under the Mobile Base Station
 Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes?

Visionstream can confirm that it has complied with all obligations of the Mobile Phone Base State Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes. In this regards, it is noted the proposal has proceeded under the State **Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.** 

With regards to site selection generally, Visionstream looked at approximately 30 locations within the surrounding area, \$47F

While the level of assessment afforded each site was based on the issues identified at each site, Visionstream considered a range of sites within the surrounding area.

Regards,

s47F

Regional SAED Manager I Visionstream



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

s47F

**W** www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



A Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 1:44 PM

**Subject:** Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Can you read the below and see if we have addressed the concerns highlighted by the plaintiff below, and looked at other alternatives to avoid exacerbating the situation and impact on the concerned residents.

Regards,

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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Froms47F

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 3:35 PM





Subject: Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Good afternoon \$47F

Not sure whether you've had a chance to look into \$47F query here, but separately to that we'd like to get some more detail about this tower.

We've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives adjacent to the property where the tower is proposed to be built (170m), and has responded to Visionstream's community consultation process, but is unsatisfied with the outcome.

The complainant has stated that he and his partner specifically moved there to get away from (amongst other things) EME, and his partner suffers from existing mental health conditions that are exacerbated by the presence of electrical appliances. He has indicated that the prospect of a tower being erected so close is causing them great distress.

Doing our due diligence we would like to have your input on some of the issues raised by the complainant. Could you please address the following:

- Are there any alternative sites for this base station? For instance, other locations on nearby State owned land?
  - The council proposed an alternative site, including an offer to contribute to associated costs. Why wasn't this offer taken up?
  - Visionstream has communicated that a site s47F was assessed, but was found to have concerns about environmental impacts to gain access, power availability, and gaining tenure. Could you provide detail to support these concerns?
  - Another alternative site \$47F
     considered in an initial assessment, and found unsuitable due to the lower height, anticipated need for vegetation clearing and land tenure. Could you also provide detail to support these concerns?
- What was the community consultation process undertaken for this tower?
  - Our complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on the sign, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.
  - Could Telstra confirm that they have complied with all obligations under the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes?

Any details you can offer about the selection process for this tower would be appreciated.

Cheers,

s47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications

s47F

unications.gov.au

From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 2:41 PM

To: **S47F** 



Subject: Fig Tree Hill - PLR site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Afternoon guys

We've received several separate complaints concerning the Fig Tree Hill Priority Locations site (MBSPPL-NSW-11).

In the correspondence from Barnaby Joyce (attached), the various correspondents raise issues with the consultation process, and are claiming that the 'proposed site will not provide promised coverage for the Stanborough/Thunderbolt's Way area indicated by [Mr Joyce's] Black Spot Program announcements'. After examining the original and variation tender maps, it appears it would've been unlikely these areas would've received improved coverage.

I understand you may not have information as to what the public coverage commitment was concerning this tower, however it would be helpful to know what Telstra's position is on the public consultation process and how it was conducted, and in particular were there any issues with the process.

Also included in the attachment is a letter dated 18 June 2019 Mr Joyce wrote to \$47F providing advice from our Department on Fig Tree Hill and neighbouring Copeton Dam. It would be useful to know if this is still current.

Separately, we've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Hill Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives 170m from where the tower is scheduled. This complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on road signage, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.

Any additional information or updates you have on the consultation would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

#### s47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications



2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

communications.gov.au / @CommsAu arts.gov.au / @artsculturegov infrastructure.gov.au / @infra\_regional

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#### Schedule 1 - Details on consultation letters

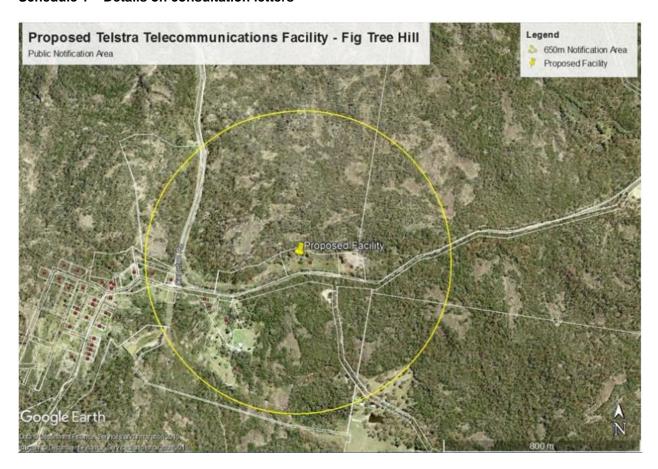


Figure 1: 650m radius area around proposed Telstra facility at Howell within which landowners were sent direct consultation letters (source: Visionstream)





Stage 2	IAP LETTER TRACKING	Site Name: FIG TREE HIL	L	Date posted:	26/11/2019	
s47F		<u>.</u>	Address 2	Trackin	a slip	Returned date and reason
			Tingha NSW 2369	Sender to keep 634 11704074 0	96	
			Inverell NSW 2360	Sender to keep 634 11704073 0	99	
			Guyra NSW 2365	Sender to keep 634 11704072 0	92	
			Howell NSW 2360	Sender to keep 634 1170408		09/12 - Insufficient address. No house appears to be constructed on lot. RP data does not have any further information on property owner
			Howell NSW 2360	634 11704079	091	09/12 - Insufficient address. No house appears to be constructed on lot. RP data does not have any further information on property owner
			Armidale NSW 2350	Sender to keep 634 11704080	0 097	
			Howell NSW 2360	634 11704076	090	
			Tingha NSW 2369	Sender to keep 634 11704077	097	
			Inverell NSW 2360	Sender to keep 634 11704078	094	
			Howell NSW 2360	634 1170407	5 093	

Figure 2: Excerpt from Visionstream tracking information on letters sent for Telstra proposal at Howell





# Schedule 2 - Signs on site



Figure 1: Sign placed on site 26/11/2019 (source: Visionstream)







Figure 2: Sign placed on site 17/12/2019 (source: Visionstream)





Schedule 3 - Newspaper articles regarding proposal

DECEMBER 2 2019 - 1:58PM

# Copeton Dam to have mobile service

Local News





Inverell Shire Council mayor Paul Harmon has welcomed news of a new mobile phone tower on the eastern side of Copeton Dam soon becoming a reality.

Community consultation will commence in the coming days with Telstra appointing planning consultants *Visionstream* to gather feedback and field questions on the proposal from residents.

Cr Harmon applauded the work of Member for New England Barnaby Joyce who lobbied for the Copeton site to be declared a Federal Government Mobile





The new tower will provide coverage for the entire valley, including Copeton Northern Foreshores and is part of the federal government's \$220 million Mobile Black Spot Program.

"Council has always been advocating for better mobile coverage within our region and Copeton has been very high on our priority list for a number of years," Cr Harmon said.

The mayor indicated Council has received information the tower will be completed by April 2020.

The proposed base station will include a 50 metre tall tower, six panel antennae and six twin-mounted amplifiers near Howell on the eastern edge of Copeton Dam.

Cr Harmon said the dam welcomed up to 10,000 visitors during last year's Christmas holidays, and mobile coverage would improve their safety.

"With the transition of residents in the Howell area to Inverell Shire and also the impending \$5.7 million upgrade of the Copeton Northern Foreshores, the timing of the tower could not have been better."

"Mobile coverage for Copeton Dam is essential for the safety of those on the water and the many thousands that visit the dam through the year.

"For the dozens of tradespeople expected to be involved in the upgrade, this will be terrific," Cr Harmon said.

Telstra states the proposed facility is required to meet increased demand placed on the network and it expected to improve local mobile network services, including voice calling, SMS, live video calling, video-based content services (such as news, finance and sports highlights) and internet browsing via the Next G network.

Details of the proposed tower can be found at https://www.rfnsa.com.au/2360025.

Figure 1: Copy of Inverell Times story on proposed Telstra facility, published 2 December 2019 (Source: *Inverell Times*)





UPDATED DECEMBER 5 2019 - 4:30PM

# Tower too close for comfort says Howell Road residents





Mark Bockhodt looks out from his fence to where the proposed tower will be located.

#### UPDATE:

Telstra has confirmed community consultation to gauge feedback on the proposed tower will include a sign on the Howell Road adjacent to the site, letters to property owners and a webpage with information.

Mike Maron, Telstra regional general manager, said under the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program, two mobile towers have been proposed at Howell and Copeton, to provide mobile coverage for customers in the area.

"This follows more than a year of assessing around 30 possible locations, and discussions with a large number of landowners within the area.

"No final decisions have been made, and the community has until December 18 to provide feedback on the proposal.

"We understand the community is genuinely concerned about the health effects from Electromagnetic Energy (EME), which is why we design our base stations to comply with the most stringent EME safety standards."

A member of the community can request additional time to make a submission. Any changes to the consultation end date will be published on Radio Frequency National Site Archive (RFNSA) website.

Residents can provide feedback via phone at 1300 745 210, email at twp\_qldplanning@visionstream.com.au or post at PO Box 5452, West End QLD 4101.

#### EARLIER:

Although many have rejoiced at the announcement of a new mobile phone tower on the eastern side of Copeton Dam, residents within 200 metres of the proposed site have shared their concerns.



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# visionstream



Mark Bockhodt and Kerrianne Wignall fear the proposed 50-metre high tower, at lot 171 Howell Road right next door, will decrease their land value and cause health issues with radiation.

Mark said around nine months ago a worker flying a drone above the site mentioned there may be a tower build on the lot but after further enquiries with Telstra, Mark was assured that wasn't true.

"Seeing the article on *The Inverell Times* website this week was the first official thing we saw about the tower going next door. We have no objections to the tower, it's great that it will provide service to Copeton and the area, but we don't want it 200 metres from us," he said.

Visionstream, the planning consultants appointed by Telstra, will gather feedback and field questions on the proposal. They've opened the window of feedback to a 21-day period which will close on December 18 at 5pm.

Mark, along with close neighbour Stacey Bilton, will submit strong rejection letters to the location proposed asking for any other site to be considered.

"Our property is directly across from this tower, there are two other houses directly affected as well; one of which every time they walk out of their front door, they will be looking at it," Stacey explained.

"We are a family of seven who not only rely heavily on mobile signal to be in contact with the outside world, but also for our home phone. Being so close to the tower we will lose signal and the tower will devalue our land substantially."

As any mother would, Stacey was concerned about the possible health implications the town may have on her family.

"Visionstream has another site at Copeton Dam that is not near any houses. There is a vast area of unoccupied land that would be more suited to the tower and the mobile signal issues around the dam."

As a ham radio operator, Mark said he was concerned the tower would interfere with his signal, or be asked to cease transmission.

After researching the issue, Mark claims the towers can cause interference to digital television and radio.

"I contacted the ACMA and was told that if it happened there would be nothing I could do except pay for satellite TV. Our small, off-the-grid solar system is already stretched to it's limit with what we have now, and we can't afford to do that. Why should we?"

Talking with a local historical society and spending time on the block, Mark believes there are some remains of an old homestead.







"There are miles of unoccupied land. I refuse to believe it needs to be placed here where it would destroy every reason we chose to come here to enjoy in our retirement. We are losing sleep just over this proposed tower and it's already affecting our health," he said.

Inverell Shire Council mayor Paul Harmon was aware residents had concerns with the proposed site and was in the process of making contact with Visionstream to discuss it further.

The mayor confirmed the Howell Road site was not the same site Council had originally recommended. "I believe Figtree Hill was our preferred location. Obviously this will all be part of the community consultation and feedback.

"We will be talking to Visionstream about the processes they put in place for safeguarding residents' health and safety," he said.

Details of the proposed tower can be found at https://www.rfnsa.com.au/2360025.

Mark stressed his support for the tower and providing service in mobile blackspots but pushed his concerns of the site location.

Figure 2: Copy of Inverell Times story on proposed Telstra facility, published 4 December 2019 and updated 5 December 2019 (Source: *Inverell Times*)





### Schedule 4 - Email sent to submitters and select IAP's on 16/12/2020

RE: Howell Phone Tower #2360025





Good Afternoon



Following notice from Inverell Shire Council that the sign had been removed from the subject site for the proposed Telstra project at Howell, Visionstream has organised for a new sign to be placed on the subject site. As a result of this the community consultation period has been extended to 13 January 2020.

With a new notification sign being placed on the subject site Visionstream is hopeful that the community consultation will now progress without further issues. Any further updates to the proposal will be made on www.rfnsa.com.au/2360025, the dedicated webpage for this project.

Kind regards,



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd





visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



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### **KENNA Allison**

From:

s47F Sent:

To:

Wednesdav. 4 March 2020 2:29 PM

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence

[DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**Attachments:** Schedule 1 - Letter consultation.pdf; Schedule 2 - Sign on site.pdf; Schedule 3 -

Newspaper articles regarding Telstra proposal.pdf; Attachment A - 2019.12.10 omment\_Response.pdf; Attachment B - 2019.12.12 - \$47F s47F

(OUT).pdf

FYI

Regards,

W www.telstra.com

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From: s47F

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 4:57 PM

To: \$47F s47F

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi s47F

As requested, please find below a summary with supporting evidence attached for Fig Tree Hill.

### **Consultation undertaken for Fig Tree Hill:**

- Consultation for this site occurred from 26 November 2019 to 24 January 2020, a period exceeding 50 days. Consultation included:
- Emails to interested and affected parties on 26 November 2019
- Letters express posted (tracked and no-signature on delivery) to landholders within 650m of the proposal on 26 November 2019 (see Schedule 1)
- Emails to the local government on 26 November 2019
- Emails to the Mayor of the local government on 26 November 2019

- An A2 sign placed on the public road adjacent to the proposal on 26 November 2019, replaced on 17
  December 2019 after being reported missing on week earlier on 9 December 2019, and then not replaced
  after being reported missing on 20 January 2020 (Schedule 2)
- A site specific webpage on RFNSA, published 26 November and updated periodically during the consultation process

The consultation as initially planned was sent the local government for adequacy, as required under Industry Code *C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment*. The local government did not identify any issues with this consultation plan and provided addresses for landowners in the area.

In addition to the above, the local newspaper the Inverell Times published two stories on the proposal, one on December 2 and one on December 4 (updated December 5 2019) (see **Schedule 3**).

Signs were staked on Howell Road immediately adjacent to the proposed facility site, preserving the immediate verge area so as not to present a safety hazard while still being visible to passing vehicles (see **Schedule 2**). Howell Road serves as the main access between Thunderbolts Way and Howell Road closest to Copeton Dam. The signs were located in positions where there was suitable space for a vehicle to pull over to the side of the road to inspect the signs. While there was a 6 business day delay between the sign being reported as missing and a new sign being placed on the site, the remote nature of the location and the bushfires at the time presented a safety challenge for our field managers in replacing the sign.

Regarding the consultation date on the signs, the consultation end date was correct when the original sign was installed at the site. The replacement sign on 17 December 2019 included the consultation end date correct at the time, being 13 January 2020. This sign was not updated for the final consultation extension due to bushfires that continued to threaten the transport route of our field managers, and as the signs and other consultation material directed members of the community to view the RFNSA page, which included additional information on the site, including extensions to consultation dates.

Regarding the RFNSA page, extensions to the consultation date were included in both a specific announcement and within the main body of the site-specific RFNFSA page. While all extensions to the consultation dates were published on the RFNSA page as quickly as possible it is acknowledged that an extension to the consultation period made on Friday 10 January was not updated on the RFNSA page until Tuesday 14 January. Telstra is not aware of any issues this made to the consultation process.

Regarding the communication of extensions, the initial letters to the community and interested and affected parties notified them of the RFNSA page for the proposal as being the location to be provided on additional information and updates on the proposal. On 16 December 2019, emails about an extension to 13 January 2020 was sent to residents who were awaiting submission responses, who had requested an extension or who had recently provided a submission (see **Schedule 4**). Similar emails were also provided to select interested and affected parties and the Council. These emails specifically noted the extension period, that the RFNSA page was the location to find out about further extensions or updates, and included a link to the RFNSA page. The second extension was communicated on 10 December 2019 to the submitter who requested it, and published on the RFNSA page for the site. It should also be noted that both Inverell Times stories regarding the proposal also included a link to the RFNSA page and a statement that this was the webpage to check for further information and updates (see **Schedule 3**).

Relevant to the consultation on this site, as noted previously in this email the sign on site went missing, believed stolen, from the site on two different occasions. The survey pegs and other markings within the subject site have also been stolen/removed and spray painting to obscure/confuse markings has also taken place.

The resident/submitter referenced by \$47F is understood to have had nearly a dozen phone conversations with planners at Visionstream regarding his concerns, in addition to 13 emails (not including emails simply acknowledging submissions). Visionstream also had discussions with the submitter after the consultation period closed, and organised for the submitter to talk to a third-party physicist regarding their concerns.

Regarding the letter from the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, dated 16 January 2020, Visionstream can advise that that it responded to several emails and calls from \$47F that raised similar issues. Please find attached copies of the formal correspondence to \$47F (Attachment A and Attachment B)

Regards,

s47F

Regional SAED Manager I Visionstream



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

s47F

W www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



A Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: S47F

Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 2:15 PM

To: **S47F** Cc: \$47F

**Subject:** NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Importance: High

Hi s47F

Can you look into the email below and the attached, and give us the back story on this site. So we can get a response back to the Gov.

We are particularly concerned about the comment that references the RFNSA.

Regards,

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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From: S47F

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 2:41 PM

To: \$47F

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Afternoon guys

We've received several separate complaints concerning the Fig Tree Hill Priority Locations site (MBSPPL-NSW-11).

In the correspondence from Barnaby Joyce (attached), the various correspondents raise issues with the consultation process, and are claiming that the 'proposed site will not provide promised coverage for the Stanborough/Thunderbolt's Way area indicated by [Mr Joyce's] Black Spot Program announcements'. After examining the original and variation tender maps, it appears it would've been unlikely these areas would've received improved coverage.

I understand you may not have information as to what the public coverage commitment was concerning this tower, however it would be helpful to know what Telstra's position is on the public consultation process and how it was conducted, and in particular were there any issues with the process.

Also included in the attachment is a letter dated 18 June 2019 Mr Joyce wrote to \$47F providing advice from our Department on Fig Tree Hill and neighbouring Copeton Dam. It would be useful to know if this is still current.

Separately, we've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Hill Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives 170m from where the tower is scheduled. This complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on road signage, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.

Any additional information or updates you have on the consultation would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

### s47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
847F

2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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s47F			

### Proposal to install a Mobile Phone Base Station at: Lot 171 Howell Road, Howell NSW

We refer to your submission dated 3 December 2019 regarding the proposed Mobile Phone Base Station which forms part of the Federal Governments Mobile Black Spot Program. We understand your concerns as summarised below:

- Coverage of proposed facility, including for Stanborough and Thunderbolt's Way
- Site considerations

Telstra recognises that inadequate mobile phone coverage and data speeds are a significant issue for many people across Australia, particularly for those living, working and travelling in regional areas.

We have reviewed the comments made in your submission and respond as follows:

### Coverage of proposed facility, including for Stanborough and Thunderbolt's Way

As discussed on the phone I am unable to provide a specific coverage area for the proposed facility, or comment on individual metrics or whether certain areas were or are to be provided coverage. I can confirm that the proposed tower coverage is acceptable under the requirements of the Mobile Black Spot Program for this site. I can also advise that the location originally set for this facility and which efforts to locate a suitable candidate were centred around, \$47F

s47F Ind is at an elevation far closer to that of the s47F you have provided for Fig Tree Hill.

### Site considerations

As discussed over the phone there are a number of significant considerations when proposed a new Telecommunications Facility. In selecting the site location of Lot 171 Howell Road, Howell NSW, Telstra has used industry best practice to assess potential candidate sites. This included assessing and/or discussing the project with prospective landowners of over 30 locations within the area,

In assessing these candidates Telstra took

into account technical and non-technical criteria including:

- service objectives;
- potential to co-locate at an existing telecommunications facility or building structure;
- visual impact on the surrounding area;
- the need to obtain relevant town planning approvals;
- the proximity to community-sensitive locations;

Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd





- the proximity to areas of environmental heritage or significance;
- the availability of secure tenure;
- the availability of public utilities, such as power;
- minimisation of electromagnetic radiation exposure to the public; and
- other cost factors.

Taking into account the coverage objectives, environmentally sensitive locations, site location requirements for transmission, construction costs and the inability to collocate on existing infrastructure, the proposed location was considered as the preferred solution.

Telstra has displayed appropriate due diligence throughout the site selection process, with the overriding requirement being to acquire a location that is acceptable under the requirements of the Mobile Black Spot Program. Any candidate considered for the proposed facility that was determined to not be acceptable with respect to coverage, including through design changes, was not considered further.

### **Moving Forward**

We hope that the information provided within provides you with peace of mind regarding the points raised in your submission. Telstra and Visionstream recognise the importance of consulting with the community and appreciate the time you have taken to provide your feedback about the proposed Mobile Phone Base Station.

Kind regards,



### **VISIONSTREAM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

ABN 85 093 384 680

Sydney Chatswood Office: Level 6, Tower 1, 495 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067

www.visionstream.com.au

# s47F

From:

**Sent:** Thursday, 12 December 2019 8:34 AM

To: \$4

**Subject:** RE: Howell Phone Tower #2360025

Good Morning s47F

I am not sure of the Telstra site that you are referring to. It may be that the Telstra site in question was showing where the tower was at that time thought to be placed, based on discussions with landowners and internal assessments, and has since been amended as a result of those discussions, but that is speculation on my behalf.

I am not aware of coverage requirements for specific sites being made publicly available as a matter of course, however you may find some of the information from the following linked Question in Writing (No. 971) helpful <a href="https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22chamber/hansardr/ca60e75d-8c6e-44a5-9c6a-b48e89bff4f1/0403%22;src1=sm1">https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22chamber/hansardr/ca60e75d-8c6e-44a5-9c6a-b48e89bff4f1/0403%22;src1=sm1</a> with regards to some of the general requirements of the program. Alternatively, you may want to ask the Federal Government directly at <a href="mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au">mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au</a>.

Kind regards,



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End QLD 4101





www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 11 December 2019 5:34 PM

To: TWP QLD Planning <twp\_qldplanning@visionstream.com.au>

Subject: Re: Howell Phone Tower #2360025

Thank you s47F for your response.

Regarding the public information available for this Blackspot site, I've been checking the Telstra website reasonably regularly for updates. The map 'pointer' has moved twice, with the original location (up until quite recently) *much* further east. If it wasn't Fig Tree Hill then certainly was in that vicinity.

In your reply you say that you are unable to provide coverage data, and yet later state that this tower meets the coverage requirements of the Blackspot program. I'll ask again whether you can provide the criteria relevant to this site? (Or tell me where I can find it) Or is this information not available to the public for some reason? Thanks for your help.

s47F

On Tue, 10 Dec. 2019, 14:32 wrote:

Good Morning s47F

Once again, thank you for your email of 3 December on the proposed Telstra mobile phone base station at Howell. Please find attached a response to your comments.

For any further information please contact me on or via email at and reference site 2360025.

Kind regards,

# s47F



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street

West End QLD 4101

www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: TWP QLD Planning

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 8:10 AM

To: s47F

Subject: RE: Howell Phone Tower #2360025

# Good Morning s47F Thank you for your time on the phone yesterday and your subsequent email regarding the proposed mobile phone base station at Howell. I will provide a written response to the concerns you have raised. Kind regards, s47F × Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End QLD 4101 s47F www.visionstream.com.au **ABN** 85 093 384 680 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail From<sub>s47</sub>F Sent: Tuesday, 3 December 2019 5:37 PM **Subject:** Howell Phone Tower #2360025

To: s47F

Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Re: Proposal to install a new mobile phone base station at Howell Road, Howell NSW 2360 s47F

Dear s47F

Thank you for your very helpful explanation on the phone this afternoon. I would however still like to register my concerns in writing, primarily to indicate that we believe one of the Blackspot aims (as initially publicised) will probably not be met.

Our property \$47F s within the proposed "Fig Tree Hill" area identified under the Blackspot Program. We currently have very marginal mobile coverage and no access to landline internet in this locality. We made a submission to the Blackspot process in January 2016, and have been waiting for some concrete responses. We were delighted when our local member Barnaby Joyce announced that the Fig Tree Hill site had been allocated Blackspot funding with an expected completion of Q4, 2018.

Fig Tree Hill is 937m high. A tower in that vicinity would have provided excellent coverage to the Stanborough area (Howell Road, Aberdeen Road) and a significant section of Thunderbolt's Way. This current proposal is for a tower s47F

Not only is this at a much lower elevation, but hills at or above 820m (the tower height) virtually encircle the proposed site.

One stated aim for the "Fig Tree Hill" proposal was to provide mobile coverage for visitors on the Copeton Foreshore (ie the western side of the dam). It seems that the rec area will get good coverage, although I do wonder if there will be signal at lower water levels given the terrain between the tower and the eastern foreshore. However the ACMA elevation profile tool suggests that *this proposed new tower site will probably provide little benefit for the residents to the east of the tower or coverage for Thunderbolt's Way*. There's certainly much higher terrain between this tower and our Stanborough locality and the main road. As you explained, signal *might* "flow" over and down but that is not guaranteed. We are concerned that this proposed location will not meet the aims of the Blackspot funding originally announced by Barnaby Joyce. And certainly we're disappointed to realise that the prospect of excellent coverage for our locality has been downgraded to a slim possibility of any improvement.

We completely understand that there are a number of practicalities to consider in these matters, and you have indicated that other sites have been considered. However placing this tower at the bottom of a hill, right beside a road and close-ish to an existing power line *looks like* Telstra might be taking the easy option - which of course may not be the case at all. Obviously it is their commercial prerogative to invest as they see fit, except that in this case they are using Blackspot funding and possibly not (it seems to us) meeting the aims for which that funding was intended.

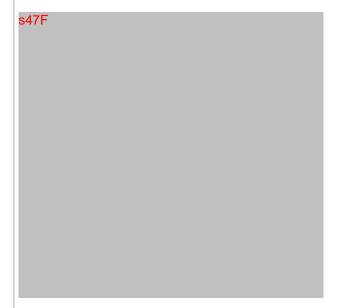
Concerning this proposal we have a number of questions/concerns:

• We note that the "Fig Tree Hill" Blackspot site has slowly morphed (westward) to "Howell" and Copeton Dam in both the naming of the site and media coverage.

- Can you provide the specific criteria for this particular Blackspot funding? Are they being met?
- Was the Stanborough/Thunderbolt's Way area to be included as we were originally led to believe?
- How many new residential customers are anticipated to get mobile coverage from this site? (As opposed to rec park visitors who of course have a stake in this).
- It's very possible that our understanding of how coverage works in practice is faulty; we'd be delighted if our concerns could be shown to be unjustified.
- Can you allay our fears that the difficulty in finding a suitable site has led to "let's just build something in the general area" in order to satisfy a political commitment? Sorry to be so blunt, but we've seen other examples recently (State gov) where the focus has been on the amount of money spent rather than effective development, and with disregard to local input.

It is not our intention to further delay what has already been a drawn out process, but we feel it is appropriate to share our views while this period of community consultation is open. Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and again for your very helpful input by phone earlier today.

Yours faithfully,



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### Schedule 1 - Details on consultation letters

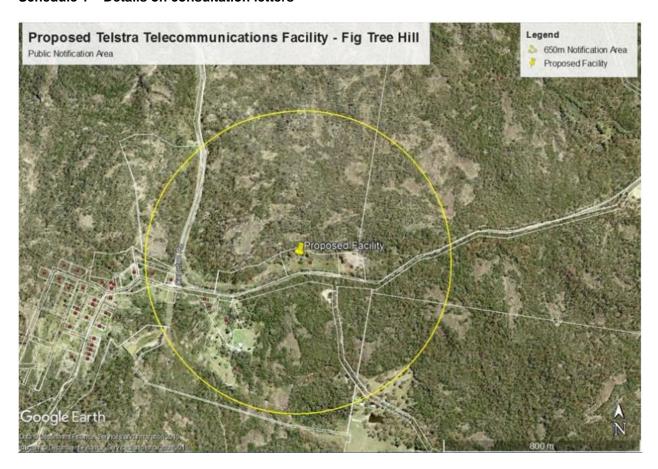


Figure 1: 650m radius area around proposed Telstra facility at Howell within which landowners were sent direct consultation letters (source: Visionstream)





Stage 2 IAP LETTER TRACKING		Site Name: FIG TREE HILL	Date posted:	26/11/2019	
s47F		Address 2	Track	ina sliv	Returned date and reason
		Tingha NSW	2369 Sender to keep 634 11704074	096	
		Inverell NSW	2360 Sender to keep 634 11704073	099	
		Guyra NSW 2	2365 Sender to keep 634 11704072	092	
		Howell NSW 2	2360 Sender to ke	81 094	09/12 - Insufficient address. No house appears to be constructed on lot. RP data does not have any further information on property owner
		Howell NSW 2	2360 Sender to keep 634 11704079	9 091	09/12 - Insufficient address. No house appears to be constructed on lot. RP data does not have any further information on property owner
		Armidale N 2350	5W 5ender to ke 634 117040	80 097	
		Howell NSW 2	2360 Sender to keep 634 11704076	8 090	
		Tingha NSW	2369 Sender to kee	7 097	
		Inverell NSW	2360 Sender to kee		
		Howell NSW 2	2360 Sender to ke	<sup>ep</sup> 75 093	

Figure 2: Excerpt from Visionstream tracking information on letters sent for Telstra proposal at Howell





## Schedule 2 - Signs on site



Figure 1: Sign placed on site 26/11/2019 (source: Visionstream)







Figure 2: Sign placed on site 17/12/2019 (source: Visionstream)





Schedule 3 - Newspaper articles regarding proposal

DECEMBER 2 2019 - 1:58PM

# Copeton Dam to have mobile service

Local News





Inverell Shire Council mayor Paul Harmon has welcomed news of a new mobile phone tower on the eastern side of Copeton Dam soon becoming a reality.

Community consultation will commence in the coming days with Telstra appointing planning consultants *Visionstream* to gather feedback and field questions on the proposal from residents.

Cr Harmon applauded the work of Member for New England Barnaby Joyce who lobbied for the Copeton site to be declared a Federal Government Mobile





The new tower will provide coverage for the entire valley, including Copeton Northern Foreshores and is part of the federal government's \$220 million Mobile Black Spot Program.

"Council has always been advocating for better mobile coverage within our region and Copeton has been very high on our priority list for a number of years," Cr Harmon said.

The mayor indicated Council has received information the tower will be completed by April 2020.

The proposed base station will include a 50 metre tall tower, six panel antennae and six twin-mounted amplifiers near Howell on the eastern edge of Copeton Dam.

Cr Harmon said the dam welcomed up to 10,000 visitors during last year's Christmas holidays, and mobile coverage would improve their safety.

"With the transition of residents in the Howell area to Inverell Shire and also the impending \$5.7 million upgrade of the Copeton Northern Foreshores, the timing of the tower could not have been better."

"Mobile coverage for Copeton Dam is essential for the safety of those on the water and the many thousands that visit the dam through the year.

"For the dozens of tradespeople expected to be involved in the upgrade, this will be terrific," Cr Harmon said.

Telstra states the proposed facility is required to meet increased demand placed on the network and it expected to improve local mobile network services, including voice calling, SMS, live video calling, video-based content services (such as news, finance and sports highlights) and internet browsing via the Next G network.

Details of the proposed tower can be found at https://www.rfnsa.com.au/2360025.

Figure 1: Copy of Inverell Times story on proposed Telstra facility, published 2 December 2019 (Source: *Inverell Times*)





UPDATED DECEMBER 5 2019 - 4:30PM

# Tower too close for comfort says Howell Road residents





Mark Bockhodt looks out from his fence to where the proposed tower will be located.

### UPDATE:

Telstra has confirmed community consultation to gauge feedback on the proposed tower will include a sign on the Howell Road adjacent to the site, letters to property owners and a webpage with information.

Mike Maron, Telstra regional general manager, said under the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program, two mobile towers have been proposed at Howell and Copeton, to provide mobile coverage for customers in the area.

"This follows more than a year of assessing around 30 possible locations, and discussions with a large number of landowners within the area.

"No final decisions have been made, and the community has until December 18 to provide feedback on the proposal.

"We understand the community is genuinely concerned about the health effects from Electromagnetic Energy (EME), which is why we design our base stations to comply with the most stringent EME safety standards."

A member of the community can request additional time to make a submission. Any changes to the consultation end date will be published on Radio Frequency National Site Archive (RFNSA) website.

Residents can provide feedback via phone at 1300 745 210, email at twp\_qldplanning@visionstream.com.au or post at PO Box 5452, West End QLD 4101.

### EARLIER:

Although many have rejoiced at the announcement of a new mobile phone tower on the eastern side of Copeton Dam, residents within 200 metres of the proposed site have shared their concerns.



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# visionstream



Mark Bockhodt and Kerrianne Wignall fear the proposed 50-metre high tower, at lot 171 Howell Road right next door, will decrease their land value and cause health issues with radiation.

Mark said around nine months ago a worker flying a drone above the site mentioned there may be a tower build on the lot but after further enquiries with Telstra, Mark was assured that wasn't true.

"Seeing the article on *The Inverell Times* website this week was the first official thing we saw about the tower going next door. We have no objections to the tower, it's great that it will provide service to Copeton and the area, but we don't want it 200 metres from us," he said.

Visionstream, the planning consultants appointed by Telstra, will gather feedback and field questions on the proposal. They've opened the window of feedback to a 21-day period which will close on December 18 at 5pm.

Mark, along with close neighbour Stacey Bilton, will submit strong rejection letters to the location proposed asking for any other site to be considered.

"Our property is directly across from this tower, there are two other houses directly affected as well; one of which every time they walk out of their front door, they will be looking at it," Stacey explained.

"We are a family of seven who not only rely heavily on mobile signal to be in contact with the outside world, but also for our home phone. Being so close to the tower we will lose signal and the tower will devalue our land substantially."

As any mother would, Stacey was concerned about the possible health implications the town may have on her family.

"Visionstream has another site at Copeton Dam that is not near any houses. There is a vast area of unoccupied land that would be more suited to the tower and the mobile signal issues around the dam."

As a ham radio operator, Mark said he was concerned the tower would interfere with his signal, or be asked to cease transmission.

After researching the issue, Mark claims the towers can cause interference to digital television and radio.

"I contacted the ACMA and was told that if it happened there would be nothing I could do except pay for satellite TV. Our small, off-the-grid solar system is already stretched to it's limit with what we have now, and we can't afford to do that. Why should we?"

Talking with a local historical society and spending time on the block, Mark believes there are some remains of an old homestead.







"There are miles of unoccupied land. I refuse to believe it needs to be placed here where it would destroy every reason we chose to come here to enjoy in our retirement. We are losing sleep just over this proposed tower and it's already affecting our health," he said.

Inverell Shire Council mayor Paul Harmon was aware residents had concerns with the proposed site and was in the process of making contact with Visionstream to discuss it further.

The mayor confirmed the Howell Road site was not the same site Council had originally recommended. "I believe Figtree Hill was our preferred location. Obviously this will all be part of the community consultation and feedback.

"We will be talking to Visionstream about the processes they put in place for safeguarding residents' health and safety," he said.

Details of the proposed tower can be found at https://www.rfnsa.com.au/2360025.

Mark stressed his support for the tower and providing service in mobile blackspots but pushed his concerns of the site location.

Figure 2: Copy of Inverell Times story on proposed Telstra facility, published 4 December 2019 and updated 5 December 2019 (Source: *Inverell Times*)

### **KENNA Allison**

From: s47F communications.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2020 9:38 AM

To: \$47

**Subject:** FW: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-

Only]

Attachments: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]; Fig Tree Hill

- Candidate assessment summary.xlsx



s4/h

Assistant Director / Mobile Black Spot Program Implementation / Regional Communications Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

s47F

2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 2154 Canberra, ACT 2601

communications.gov.au / @CommsAu arts.gov.au / @artsculturegov infrastructure.gov.au / @infra\_regional

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

### For Official Use Only

From:S47F

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 5:20 PM

s47F

Subject: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

HS47F

Please refer to the attached CAR details.

Regards,

s47F

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Froms47F

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 2:29 PM

To: cc:S47F

s47F

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

FYI

Regards,

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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s47F

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 4:57 PM

# s47F

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

His47F

As requested, please find below a summary with supporting evidence attached for Fig Tree Hill.

### **Consultation undertaken for Fig Tree Hill:**

- Consultation for this site occurred from 26 November 2019 to 24 January 2020, a period exceeding 50 days.
   Consultation included:
- Emails to interested and affected parties on 26 November 2019
- Letters express posted (tracked and no-signature on delivery) to landholders within 650m of the proposal on 26 November 2019 (see **Schedule 1**)
- Emails to the local government on 26 November 2019
- Emails to the Mayor of the local government on 26 November 2019
- An A2 sign placed on the public road adjacent to the proposal on 26 November 2019, replaced on 17
  December 2019 after being reported missing on week earlier on 9 December 2019, and then not replaced
  after being reported missing on 20 January 2020 (Schedule 2)

 A site specific webpage on RFNSA, published 26 November and updated periodically during the consultation process

The consultation as initially planned was sent the local government for adequacy, as required under Industry Code *C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment*. The local government did not identify any issues with this consultation plan and provided addresses for landowners in the area.

In addition to the above, the local newspaper the Inverell Times published two stories on the proposal, one on December 2 and one on December 4 (updated December 5 2019) (see **Schedule 3**).

Signs were staked on Howell Road immediately adjacent to the proposed facility site, preserving the immediate verge area so as not to present a safety hazard while still being visible to passing vehicles (see **Schedule 2**). Howell Road serves as the main access between Thunderbolts Way and Howell Road closest to Copeton Dam. The signs were located in positions where there was suitable space for a vehicle to pull over to the side of the road to inspect the signs. While there was a 6 business day delay between the sign being reported as missing and a new sign being placed on the site, the remote nature of the location and the bushfires at the time presented a safety challenge for our field managers in replacing the sign.

Regarding the consultation date on the signs, the consultation end date was correct when the original sign was installed at the site. The replacement sign on 17 December 2019 included the consultation end date correct at the time, being 13 January 2020. This sign was not updated for the final consultation extension due to bushfires that continued to threaten the transport route of our field managers, and as the signs and other consultation material directed members of the community to view the RFNSA page, which included additional information on the site, including extensions to consultation dates.

Regarding the RFNSA page, extensions to the consultation date were included in both a specific announcement and within the main body of the site-specific RFNFSA page. While all extensions to the consultation dates were published on the RFNSA page as quickly as possible it is acknowledged that an extension to the consultation period made on Friday 10 January was not updated on the RFNSA page until Tuesday 14 January. Telstra is not aware of any issues this made to the consultation process.

Regarding the communication of extensions, the initial letters to the community and interested and affected parties notified them of the RFNSA page for the proposal as being the location to be provided on additional information and updates on the proposal. On 16 December 2019, emails about an extension to 13 January 2020 was sent to residents who were awaiting submission responses, who had requested an extension or who had recently provided a submission (see **Schedule 4**). Similar emails were also provided to select interested and affected parties and the Council. These emails specifically noted the extension period, that the RFNSA page was the location to find out about further extensions or updates, and included a link to the RFNSA page. The second extension was communicated on 10 December 2019 to the submitter who requested it, and published on the RFNSA page for the site. It should also be noted that both Inverell Times stories regarding the proposal also included a link to the RFNSA page and a statement that this was the webpage to check for further information and updates (see **Schedule 3**).

Relevant to the consultation on this site, as noted previously in this email the sign on site went missing, believed stolen, from the site on two different occasions. The survey pegs and other markings within the subject site have also been stolen/removed and spray painting to obscure/confuse markings has also taken place.

The resident/submitter referenced by \$47F is understood to have had nearly a dozen phone conversations with planners at Visionstream regarding his concerns, in addition to 13 emails (not including emails simply acknowledging submissions). Visionstream also had discussions with the submitter after the consultation period closed, and organised for the submitter to talk to a third-party physicist regarding their concerns.

Regarding the letter from the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, dated 16 January 2020, Visionstream can advise that that it responded to several emails and calls from \$47F hat raised similar issues. Please find attached copies of the formal correspondence to \$47F (Attachment A and Attachment B)



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

W www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 2:15 PM

Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Importance: High

нiS47F

Can you look into the email below and the attached, and give us the back story on this site. So we can get a response back to the Gov.

We are particularly concerned about the comment that references the RFNSA.

Regards,

s47F

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From: S47F

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 2:41 PM



Subject: NA18779.01 - FIUR - MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Afternoon guys

We've received several separate complaints concerning the Fig Tree Hill Priority Locations site (MBSPPL-NSW-11).

In the correspondence from Barnaby Joyce (attached), the various correspondents raise issues with the consultation process, and are claiming that the 'proposed site will not provide promised coverage for the Stanborough/Thunderbolt's Way area indicated by [Mr Joyce's] Black Spot Program announcements'. After examining the original and variation tender maps, it appears it would've been unlikely these areas would've received improved coverage.

I understand you may not have information as to what the public coverage commitment was concerning this tower, however it would be helpful to know what Telstra's position is on the public consultation process and how it was conducted, and in particular were there any issues with the process.

Also included in the attachment is a letter dated 18 June 2019 Mr Joyce wrote to \$\frac{\$47F}{} \ providing advice from our Department on Fig Tree Hill and neighbouring Copeton Dam. It would be useful to know if this is still current.

Separately, we've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Hill Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives 170m from where the tower is scheduled. This complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on road signage, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.

Any additional information or updates you have on the consultation would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

### s47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

# s47F

2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

communications.gov.au / @CommsAu arts.gov.au / @artsculturegov infrastructure.gov.au / @infra\_regional

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### **KENNA Allison**

From:

Sent:

Tuesday, 10 March 2020 11:15 AM

To: Cc:

Subject:

MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

His47F

I will discuss with the team and provide a summary.

Regards,



### Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

s47F



W www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: S47F

Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2020 9:46 AM

s47F

Subject: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Do you have any details relating to other candidates that were investigated?

s22

Regards,

s47F

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Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:33 AM

To:s47F Cc:

Subject: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation - be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

His47F

Site Nomination Form and approval email attached.

Regards,

s47F

Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

s47F



Www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2020 9:16 AM

To:<sub>S47F</sub>

Cc:

Subject: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

His47F

Do you have a C.A.R. for this project?

Regards,

s47F

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From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:57 PM

To: **s47F** 

Cc: s47F

Subject: MBSPPL-NSW-11 - Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi s47F

Response below to the questions asked by s47F

 Are there any alternative sites for this base station? For instance, other locations on nearby State owned land?

There are no alternative candidates that have been identified that balance all considerations better than the subject site. Alternative candidates in the area (see below) have been removed from further consideration due to issues associated with bringing power to the site, height (and so coverage) access, tenure, buildability and environmental impacts. The subject site provides a location that meets the coverage objectives of the project, will allow for connection to the wider telecommunications networks, has minimal environmental impacts, is within acceptable proximity to power, is able to be built upon and is an appropriate distance from residences.

The council proposed an alternative site, including an offer to contribute to associated costs. Why wasn't this offer taken up?

The offer from the local government was for \$10,000 in power and \$10,000 in access. The specific location for the site is at the top of Fig Tree Hill and is heavily vegetated without a formal access path/track. Assessments of the power network in the area have shown that the nearest high voltage line is 2km to the south-west, 2.7km to the south-east and 3.6km to the east, each as the crow flies. Each of these power options would require the extension of existing power through other properties and in some cases, multiple properties, before it could be extended to the Fig Tree Hill property. Each property would likely require individual negotiation and discussion before any extension could even commence, including consideration for potential amenity impacts on the landholders. This also does not include consideration for the environmental impacts and issues with large-scale clearing that would be required from most of these existing lines. The most suitable extension from the existing high-voltage line is approximately 4.5km. This does not compare favourably to the subject site for the proposed facility, which requires a power extension of approximately 600m. Areas around the suggested location on Fig Tree Hill appear quite steep from available topographical data and this extends to the suggested location itself, with some locations having an average slope of nearly 20%. Given the topographical issues on the site, access by construction vehicles is likely to be difficult at best even via a circuitous route, and would likely still require significant earthworks and clearing. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

Visionstream has communicated that a site s47F
 was assessed, but was found to have concerns about environmental impacts to gain access, power availability, and gaining tenure. Could you provide detail to support these concerns?

An assessment of a possible alternate site was undertakens47F

This area was selected for initial assessment due to a variety of factors including its distance from residences, its height, its location in an existing cleared area and its proximity to the original contract location. While the cleared area was assessed as being potentially suitable for the tower, further assessment raised significant concerns with the apparent exposed rock of the site, the extent of environmental impacts required to gain access to the location and the and environmental impacts from taking power 1km away. Recent discussions with the landowner have confirmed they are not interested in having the proposal located in a cleared area in the north-east of their property which is closer to power and at a likely appropriate height. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

O Another alternative site \$47F vas also considered in an initial assessment, and found unsuitable due to the lower height, anticipated need for vegetation clearing and land tenure. Could you also provide detail to support these concerns?

:47F

we can advise that the most suitable

This areas was considered suitable as it is close to an existing point of supply for power and appears unlikely to require clearing for the facility or for bushfire hazard prevention purposes. Other areas on the site, particularly to the north are higher, but would require significant vegetation clearing for access, for the facility itself, for bushfire hazard prevention, for power, and would require a power run longer than the currently proposed site. The most likely location however appears to be situated on an area of exposed rock, and is 15m lower than the existing site, potentially requiring a higher tower to provide the same extent of coverage. The site would also require greater vegetation clearing for access and power purposes than the currently proposed site. The site is also understood to be owned by the Government of NSW, and so would require protracted tenure negotiations, including specific consideration for the land claim by the local aboriginal council that is understood to be over the land. Given these considerations, the currently proposed site is considered to best balance all considerations for a new mobile phone base station.

- What was the community consultation process undertaken for this tower?
  - Our complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on the sign, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.

Consultation for this site occurred from 26 November 2019 to 24 January 2020, a period exceeding 50 days. Consultation included:

- Emails to interested and affected parties on 26 November 2019
- Letters express posted (tracked and no-signature on delivery) to landholders within 650m of the proposal on 26 November 2019 (see Schedule 1)
- Emails to the local government on 26 November 2019
- Emails to the Mayor of the local government on 26 November 2019
- An A2 sign placed on the public road adjacent to the proposal on 26 November 2019, replaced on 17 December 2019 after being reported missing on week earlier on 9 December 2019, and then not replaced after being reported missing on 20 January 2020 (Schedule 2)
- A site specific webpage on RFNSA, published 26 November and updated periodically during the consultation process

The consultation as initially planned was sent the local government for review, as required under Industry Code *C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment*. The local government did not identify any issues with this consultation plan and provided addresses for landowners in the area.

In addition to the above, the local newspaper the Inverell Times published two stories on the proposal, one on December 2 and one on December 4 (updated December 5 2019) (see Schedule 3).

Signs were staked on Howell Road immediately adjacent to the proposed facility site, preserving the immediate verge area so as not to present a safety hazard while still being visible to passing vehicles (see Schedule 2). Howell Road serves as the main access between Thunderbolts Way and Howell Road closest to Copeton Dam. The signs were located in positions where there was suitable space for a vehicle to pull over to the side of the road to inspect the signs. While there was a 6 business day delay between the sign being reported as missing and a new sign being placed on the site, the remote nature of the location and the bushfires at the time presented a challenge for our field managers in replacing the sign any sooner.

Regarding the consultation date on the signs, the consultation end date was correct when the original sign was installed at the site. The replacement sign on 17 December 2019 included the consultation end date correct at the time, being 13 January 2020. This sign was not updated for the final consultation extension due to bushfires that continued to threaten the transport route of our field managers, and as the signs and other consultation material directed members of the community to view the RFNSA page, which included additional information on the site, including extensions to consultation dates.

Regarding the RFNSA page, extensions to the consultation date were included in both a specific announcement and within the main body of the site-specific RFNFSA page. While all extensions to the consultation dates were published on the RFNSA page as quickly as possible it is acknowledged that an extension to the consultation period made on Friday 10 January was not updated on the RFNSA page until Tuesday 14 January. Telstra is not aware of any issues this made to the consultation process.

Regarding the communication of extensions, the initial letters to the community and interested and affected parties notified them of the RFNSA page for the proposal as being the location to be provided on additional information and updates on the proposal. On 16 December 2019, emails about an extension to 13 January 2020 was sent to residents who were awaiting submission responses, who had requested an extension or who had recently provided a submission (see Schedule 4). Similar emails were also provided to select interested and affected parties and the Council. These emails specifically noted the extension period, that the RFNSA page was the location to find out about further extensions or updates, and included a link to the RFNSA page. The second extension was communicated on 10 December 2019 to the submitter who requested it, and published on the RFNSA page for the site. It should also be noted that both Inverell Times stories regarding the proposal also included a link to the RFNSA page and a statement that this was the webpage to check for further information and updates (see Schedule 3).

The resident/submitter referenced by s47F is understood to have had nearly a dozen phone conversations with planners at Visionstream regarding his concerns, in addition to 13 emails (not including emails simply acknowledging submissions). Visionstream also had discussions with the submitter after the consultation period closed, and organised for the submitter to talk to a third-party physicist regarding their concerns.

> o Could Telstra confirm that they have complied with all obligations under the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes?

Visionstream can confirm that it has complied with all obligations of the Mobile Phone Base State Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes. In this regards, it is noted the proposal has proceeded under the State **Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.** 

With regards to site selection generally, Visionstream looked at approximately 30 locations within the surrounding area, s47F

s47F While the level of assessment afforded each site was based on the issues identified at each site, Visionstream considered a range of sites within the surrounding area.

Regards,

s47F



Visionstream Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 10 Browning Street West End, QLD 4101

s47F

W www.visionstream.com.au

ABN 85 093 384 680



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: S47F

Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 1:44 PM

To:s47F

Subject: Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Can you read the below and see if we have addressed the concerns highlighted by the plaintiff below, and looked at other alternatives to avoid exacerbating the situation and impact on the concerned residents.

Regards,

s47F

W www.telstra.com

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From: S47F

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 3:35 PM

s47F

Subject: Fig Tree Hill - PLR site [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

[External Email] This email was sent from outside the organisation – be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Good afternoors47F

Not sure whether you've had a chance to look into s47F query here, but separately to that we'd like to get some more detail about this tower.

We've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives adjacent to the property where the tower is proposed to be built (170m), and has responded to Visionstream's community consultation process, but is unsatisfied with the outcome.

The complainant has stated that he and his partner specifically moved there to get away from (amongst other things) EME, and his partner suffers from existing mental health conditions that are exacerbated by the presence of electrical appliances. He has indicated that the prospect of a tower being erected so close is causing them great distress.

Doing our due diligence we would like to have your input on some of the issues raised by the complainant. Could you please address the following:

- Are there any alternative sites for this base station? For instance, other locations on nearby State owned land?
  - The council proposed an alternative site, including an offer to contribute to associated costs. Why wasn't this offer taken up?

- Visionstream has communicated that a<sup>s47F</sup>
  was assessed, but was found to have concerns about environmental impacts to gain access, power
  availability, and gaining tenure. Could you provide detail to support these concerns?
- Another alternative site on the corner of Copeton Road/Howell Road and Conrad St was also considered in an initial assessment, and found unsuitable due to the lower height, anticipated need for vegetation clearing and land tenure. Could you also provide detail to support these concerns?
- What was the community consultation process undertaken for this tower?
  - Our complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on the sign, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.
  - O Could Telstra confirm that they have complied with all obligations under the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code C564:2018 and taken into serious consideration concerns of the community, as well as any State and local government planning approval processes?

Any details you can offer about the selection process for this tower would be appreciated.

Cheers,

s47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications

347F

From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 2:41 PM

To: s47F Cc:

s47F

Subject: Fig Tree Hill - PLR site correspondence [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Afternoon guys

We've received several separate complaints concerning the Fig Tree Hill Priority Locations site (MBSPPL-NSW-11).

In the correspondence from Barnaby Joyce (attached), the various correspondents raise issues with the consultation process, and are claiming that the 'proposed site will not provide promised coverage for the Stanborough/Thunderbolt's Way area indicated by [Mr Joyce's] Black Spot Program announcements'. After examining the original and variation tender maps, it appears it would've been unlikely these areas would've received improved coverage.

I understand you may not have information as to what the public coverage commitment was concerning this tower, however it would be helpful to know what Telstra's position is on the public consultation process and how it was conducted, and in particular were there any issues with the process.

Also included in the attachment is a letter dated 18 June 2019 Mr Joyce wrote to s47F providing advice from our Department on Fig Tree Hill and neighbouring Copeton Dam. It would be useful to know if this is still current.

Separately, we've received complaints from a resident of Howell in regards to the Fig Tree Hill Tower that's currently scheduled to go up on Howell Road. The complainant lives 170m from where the tower is scheduled. This complainant has mentioned that dates for extensions of community consultation were not effectively communicated; not updated on road signage, and altered after the fact on the RFNSA website.

Any additional information or updates you have on the consultation would be greatly appreciated.

### Many thanks,

#### <47F

Program Officer / Mobile Black Spot Program / Regional Communications
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

### s47F

2 Phillip Law Street, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

communications.gov.au / @CommsAu arts.gov.au / @artsculturegov infrastructure.gov.au / @infra\_regional

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Int on Plan Comments

#F. Location likely to work for RF/coverage

#Timing and tenure issue - Location is State owned and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

#Power - Power likely to come from ondowy \$50m to the west.

#Clearing Issue - Location is havely vegetated

#Clearing Issue - Location is havely vegetated

#Access issue - Elected so not have an entiting access.

#Reight - Subject site is at an acceptable elevation

#Planning process issue - Zoning of subject site allows for \$50P though vegetation and owner requirements may trigger a developm s47F Neight - Subject site is at an acceptable elevation
 Flanking process issue - Zoning of subject site allows for ISEP though vegetation and owner requirements may trigger a development application. Location will require several reports, including Bushfire Assessment, Flora & Fauna Assessment and Heritage Assessment Report.
 Construction sizes - Aerial imagery shows rock at several points along likely access route and around construction area, resulting in power coming overhead (expanding corridor clearing) and creating issues for site build
 Residential promition in Section 1.
 Residential promition in Section 1.
 Residential promition in Section 1.
 Its is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and negotiation will be required.
 Cultural heritage issue - Given extent of ground disturbance, cultural heritage assessment more likely to determine potential abortginal disturbance areas. \* RF - She height may cause an issue for RF but is relatively close to Copeton Dam

\* Timing and tenune issue - Location was assessed in 2018/2019 and began to progress as most suitable candidate at the time. Due to disagreements between landowner and relative on adjacent lot relating to power extension site was not able to be obtained.

\* Power issue—Site requires power for un frough an adjoining privately owned land parcel. Owner of that land has stated they will not agree to this use of their fand.

\*\*Ceachia\_\*\*\* Voltage are is partially clearing, with likely mixer clearing required for facility, setdown and bushfire hazard prevention.

\*\*Access—Site has an existing access and internal access path to works area

\*\*Access—Site has an existing access and internal access path to works area

\*\*Problem's to be at a comparatively low height

\*\*Parming process—Site can proceed as ISEPP, subject to environmental confirmation

\*\*Construction—Site appears building.\*\* 751m AHD \*Construction - Site appears buildable
Residential proximity issue - Site is approximatably 250m from understood location of off-site residence. Understood that owner of adjoining property will drive past tower to access his property.
Native Title - While site is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title
Cultural Intellings - Previous alter distribution capages rightly, bast AMINS sector recommended and further assessment against due diligence guidelines RF - Site height may cause an issue for RF but is relatively close to Copeton Dam

'Imning and senura issue - Landowner not interested in proposal.

Power - Power analibate approximately 280m west of size.

Closaring - Works are is partially clearing, with likely minor clearing required for facility, setdown and bushfire hazard prevention.

Access - Size has an existing secsors and internal access spath to works area

\*\*Height issue - Size is at a comparatively low height

Planning process.- Size can proceed as ISEPP, subject to environmental confirmation

\*\*Construction - Size appears buildable

\*\*Readlested as reportingly issue. - Size is a conversionable of residence on adjoining property. 753m AHD Residential proximity issue - Site is approximately 150m of residence on adjoining property.

Native Tide - While site is located within a Native Tide claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Tide

Cultural heritage - Previous site distintance appears likely and ground distintance is planning to be 150m, basic AvillMS search recommended and further assessment against due diligence gui RF - Location likely to work for RF/coverage
Training and senure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.
Power - Site is without power and will require power extends no of approximately 600m from the west
Clearing - Location is mostly cleared, with likely on minimal clearing for bushfire hazard prevention
Access - Site has an editing socces and cleared corridor to the works area
Height - Site is at an appropriate elevation
Planning - Site on likely proceed as LISEPP
Construction - Site appears buildable
Reddential proceder is abmoordmataly 180m from marret residence. 776m AHD \*\*Construction\*\* are appears a transactors.

\*\*Basildential provingity Issue - Site is abproximately 180m from nearest residence.

\*\*Basildential provingity Issue - Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and negotiation will be required.

\*\*Cultural heritage - Small extent of ground disturbance and previous disturbance reduces likelihood of possible archaeological deposit being Identified \* RF Issue - Site helight may cause an issue for RF

\* Timing and tenums issue - No twelling on-site and no landowner details available through RP data, White Pages or through Titling Information (Council provided their contact details for this ion
as part of consultation for nonlineted condicions, but address was just Howell Road, Howell)

\* Power - Site has power line running though it \*\*Access - Site does not appear to have a formal existing access, but is close to Copeton Road

\* Access - Site does not appear to have a formal existing access, but is close to Copeton Road

\* Height Issue - Site is at a comparatively low height

\* Planning - Site on Titley proceed as ISEP

\*\*Construction - Site appears buildable

\*\*Residentials programs\*\* 748m AHD Construction - Site appears buildable
 Residential proximity issue - Site is approximately 340m from nearest residence.
 Native Title - White site is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title
 Cultural heritage issue - Previous site disturbance cannot be confirmed at this time, basic AHIMS search recommended and further assessment against due diligence guidelines ### - Location likely to work for REfroewage
### - Timing and terms tase - Landowner has confirmed not interested in proposal.

### - Prover issue - Star will require power actension of 800m to the west

### - Clearing - Stile appears entirely cleared

### - Access - Stile has an existing access from Howell Road

### - Height Issue - Stile has an existing access from Howell Road

#### - Redight Issue - Stile has an existing access from Howell Road

#### - Redight Issue - Stile has an existing access from Howell Road

#### - Planning - Stile can likely proceed as SEPP

- Construction - Stile appears building is

#### - Redight Issue - Stile has papears building is

##### - Redight Issue - Stile has papears building is

######### - Redight Issue - Stile has papears building it ide claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

\* Cultural heritage - Previous site disturbance appears likely and given low extent of ground disturbance formal cultural heritage assessment is unlikely to find possible archaeological depression. RF - Location likely to work for RF/coverage RF - Site is likely acceptable for RF

"Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirer

"Power Issue - Site is without power and will require power extention of approximately 900m from the west

Clearing - Location is mostly cleared, with filely only minimal identing for bushire hazard prevention

Access - Site has an existing access and cleaved corridor to the works area

\*Relight - Site is at an appropriate elevation

\*Planning - Site can likely proceed through ISEP process

Construction - Site appears buildable

\*Residential proximity issue - Site is approximately 190m from nearest residence.

\*Residential proximity issue - Site is approximately 190m from searest residence. Residential proximity issue - Site is approximately 190m from nearest residence.
 Native title issue-- Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title In not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and negotiation will be required.

• Cultural heritage - Small extent of ground disturbance and previous disturbance reduces likelihood of possible archaeological deposit being identified \*\*RF - Site 5 likely accept for RF

\*\*Timing and feature issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

\*\*Power issue - Site 5 without power and will require power extension of approximately 230m to the south. Given presence of exposed rock along power route, power may need to go overhead within subject stite, increasing cleaning.

\*\*Clearing issue - While words area is mostly cleared, site access and power will likely require significant clearing from Copeton Road

\*\*Access issue - Site of each on this way fromstilled occess. Access close to sharp bend in road not ideal for sight line safety.

\*\*Height issue - Site is at a alightly lower than optimal height

\*\*Planning process issue- Site may possibly proceed through ISEPP process, though given extent of clearing DA may be required

\*\*Construction size - Site may possibly proceed through ISEPP process, though given extent of clearing DA may be required

\*\*Construction size - Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

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\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest residence.

\*\*Relidential proximity- Site is approximately 500m from nearest 757m AHD Residue - Low site helight may cause issues for RF

Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

Power - Site is without power and will require power extension of approximately JOBn to the north-east.

Clearing issue - Site is heavily vegetated and will require clearing for facility, partial desting for access and clearing for bushfire hazard prevention

Access - White site does not have any formalized access, access from Copetion Road is readily available

Health Issue - Site is at a comparatively low helpth compared to other candidates.

Planning process issue - Site may possibly proceed through ISEPP grocess, though dependent on specific extent of clearing, DA may be required

Construction - Site appears buildable

Residential proximity- Site is approximately 400m from nearest residence.

Native title issue - Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and negotiation will be required. required.
ssue - Extent of ground disturbance is low, however lack of previous disturbance will potentially require formal cultural heritage assessment and increase likelihood of possible

 RF- Site height acceptable though distance to Copeton Dam is considerable
 \*Timing and senure -Landowner has confirmed not interested in this location.
 Power- Power is available close to site, within 200%.
 Clearing - Works small is cleared, with possibly some minor clearing required
 Access - Site has an existing scoses.
 Height - Site is at an appropriate elevation. s47F 796m AHD Planning process - Site likely to proceed as ISEPP \* Planning process - Size likely to proceed as ISPPP
 \*\*Construction - Size appears buildable
 \*\*nesidential proximity issue - Size is approximately 200m from nearest suspected residence
 \*\*nesidential proximity issue - Size is approximately 200m from nearest suspected residence
 \*\*nestwe Title - While die is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may exclinguish Native Title
 \*\*Cultural heritage - Previous site disturbance appears likely and given low extent of ground disturbance, unlikely that site will har
 \*\*IF - Size height acceptable though distance to Copetion Dam is considerable
 \*\*Thing and Server bissue - Cocation is State lained and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning. Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

Power-- Site has power, though location will require power actession of approximately John
Clearing issue - Site is partially cleared, with works area requiring clearing for facility and bushfire hazard prevention area.

Access - Site has an existing access, though works area may require new intent access track.

\*\*Planning process issue - Site so appropriate elevation

\*\*Planning process issue - Site could proceed as ISEPP, though depedent on extent of clearing, DA may be required

\*\*Construction - Site appears buildings

\*\*Construction - Site appears buildings

\*\*Residential proximity issue-- Site is suproundately 75m from nearest residence.

\*\*Residential proximity issue-- Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title issue - Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title issue - Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title issue - Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title in not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Institute Institute - Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title in not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Institute - Site is understood be Siste owned and so Native Title in not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title not negotation will be required.

\*\*Cultural heritage issue-Mo evidence of previous site disturbance, and given significant ground disturbance required for all works, additional cultural heritage assessment likely required and potential further reporting. 798m AHD RF issue- Site height acceptable though distance to Copeton Dam is significant
 Timing and tenure issue-Letter regarding proposal was sent to landowner via post. Landowner did not respond to letter. Timing and tenure issue - Letter regarding - Power - Site has power, with only mirrimal - Clearing: Works area is cleared.
 Access issue - Site has existing access.
 Height - Site is at an appropriate elevation - Planning - Site could proceed as ISEPP.
 Construction - Site appears buildable. Construction - Site appears pointaine.
 Residential provintily: Site is several silometres from nearest residence.
 Residential provintily: Site is several silometres from nearest residence.
 Ratcher 1816 - While site is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title Cultural intrilage. Extent of ground siturtaines is low. RF issue- Site does not work for RF/coverage
 Timing and benure issue- Land is freehold and so with willing landowner will not require onerous necessment be registered. easement be registered.

Pewer Issue - Size would require minimum power extansion of 800m, all within private land

Clearing-Works area to cleared.

Access Issue - Size has a acting access.

Height - Size is at an appropriate elevation.

Planning - Size could proced as ISSEP.

Construction - Size appear buildable

Residential provinting-Size is several islinearies from nearest residence.

Native Title - While size is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While size is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

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Native Title - While size is located within a Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While size - Extent of Extensive Access and the Native Title claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While State - Extent of Extensive Title Claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While State - Extent of Extensive Title Claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While State - Extent of Extensive Title Claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title

Native Title - While State - Extent of Extensive Title Claim area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish to extensive the Province Title - While State - Extensive Title - While State - Extensive Title - While Sta 785m AHD e RF issue-Site height very low but close to Copeton Dam. Considerable distance from any residences may cause an issue with metrics.

\* Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

\* Owner issue - Site does not have power, necessitating likely extension of 1.3km from north, requiring confidor clearing

\* Cearing issue-Site is partially cleared, with works area likely to require shrubbery and juveniled tree clearing only. Power and access may require partial clearing along existing access track, then urther clearing to acc Nurther Clearing to access works area.

\*\*Access--Works area access may be possible through extension of existing access track.

\*\*Redies-- Nursh area access may be possible through extension of existing access track.

\*\*Redies-- Nursh area access may be possible through extension.

\*\*Painning-- Sits could proceed as SETP, though dependent on extent of clearing. DA may be required

\*\*Construction-- Site appears buildable.

\*\*Construction-- Site appears buildable.

\*\*Rediential proximity-- Site is severable illimenters from nearest residence.

\*\*Rediential proximity-- Site is severable illimenters from nearest residence.

\*\*Retieved this issue-- Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and 573m AHD RE issue- Site height very low but close to Copeton Dam. Considerable distance from any residences may cause an issue with metrics.

Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

Power- Site does not have power, fundable approximately 175 mto north-best

Clearing Issue- Site is heavily vegetated, requiring clearing for access, power, facility and bushfire hazard prevention.

Access- Site does not appear to have existing access, requiring new access track of 370m in length,

\*\*Raingle-Site could once also SEPP. Though depends not extend or clearing. OA may be required

\*\*Construction- Site appears buildable

\*\*Construction- Site appears buildable

\*\*Residential proximity- Site is several islimenters from nearest residence.

\*\*Raine-with-site is several islimenters from nearest residence.

\*\*Raine-Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not filterly to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site. Native Title notification and necessitation will be required. on will be required. regulation with the endance of previous like disturbance, and given significant ground disturbance required for all works and proximity to water area, additional cultural heritage assessme required, increasing likelihood a CHMP required and potential further reporting. Refissue-Site height very low but dose to Copeton Dam. Considerable distance from any residences may cause an issue with matrics.

Timing and iterure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

Power issue-Site does not have power, with closest power on this side of Copeton Dam coming from approximately 3.2 km to the east.

Clearing base - Site is nearly vegelables, requiring clearing for access, power, facility and businerships.

Access issue-Site does not appear to have estating access, and given distance from formal roads in the area, access route cannot be confirmed at this stage.

\*\*Neight issue-Site does not appear to have estating access, and given distance from formal roads in the area, access route cannot be confirmed at this stage.

\*\*Power issue-Site does not appear to have estating access, and given distance from formal roads in the area, access route cannot be confirmed at this stage.

\*\*Power issue-Site site is a comparatively low elevation.

\*\*Planning-Site could proceed as SERP, though depedent on extent of clearing, DA may be required

\*\*Construction-Site as appears building the appearship of the area RF Issue - Site height very low but close to Copeton Dam. Considerable distance from any residences may cause an issue with metrics.

Timing and tenure issue - Location is State land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

Power Issue - Side does not have power, with closes; bower on this side of Copeton Dam coming from approximately 1.8ion to the east.

Clasting Issue - Site is heavily vegetated, requiring clearing for access, power, facility and bushfire hazard prevention.

Access Issue - Site to a comparative for a classes, and given distance from formal roads in the area, access route cannot be confirmed at this stage. \* Neight issue - Site is at a comparatively low elevation.
 \*\*Painning - Site could proceed as SEPP, though depedent on extent of clearing, DA may be required
 \*\*Construction - Site appears buildable
 \*\*Assidential proximity: Site is several followers from nearest residence.
 \*\*Assidential proximity: Site is several followers from nearest residence.
 \*\*Astave title issue - Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted over site, Native Title notification and negotiation will be required.
 \*\*Columning of the site of previous site disturbance, and given significant ground disturbance required for all works and extreme proximity to water area, additional cultural heritage assessment likely required, increasing likelihood a CHMP required and potential further reporting. RF - Location likely to work for RF

\*Timing and tenure issue - Location is state land and so will require a long time period and additional requirements for Planning.

\*Power Issue - Nearest power would require a national on of 1.7 Inn from east, including 200 run within the subject site.

\*Clearing issue - Site is bearing vegetation and dependant on power and access route, will require extensive desiring.

\*Access issue - Site does not have an existing access

\*Access issue - Site does not have an existing access

\*Access issue - Site does not have an existing access

\*Access issue - Site does not have an existing access

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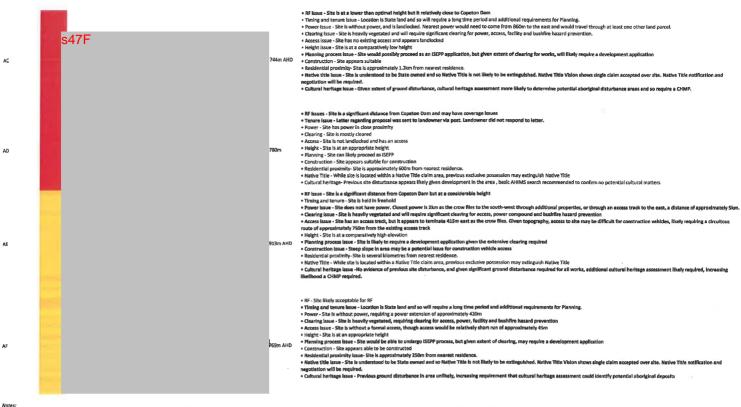
\*Access issue - Site does not have an existing access

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\*Access issue - Site is understood to be State owned and so Native Title is not likely to be extinguished. Native Title Vision shows single claim accepted ower site. Native Title notification and naccess access and so require a CRMP.

\*Cultural heritage issue - Cityen actent of ground disturbance, cultural heritage assessment more likely to determine potential abordinal disturbance access and so require a CRMP. Refissue - Site is at a low helight, but is close to Copeton Dam
Tenure issue - Letter regarding proposal was sent to landowner via post. Landowner did not respond to letter
Power issue - Coses power is Zkm to the west or Zalon to the north as the crow files. Difficult to determine how power would get to the location
Clearing - Site appears mostly cleared such that additional clearing utilities
Access Issue - Site appears inardiocked, with a possible access track coming from Authurn Vale Road to the west
Height Issue - Site is a comparatively low height
Planning - Site can proceed as an ISPP application
Construction sixes - Site has peaks be waterway along the western boundary which may cause an issue for construction vehicles.
Residential proximity- Site is several kilomatries from nearest residence.
Residential proximity- Site is several kilomatries from nearest residence.
Rather Title - While site is located within a Rather Title clear area, previous exclusive possession may extinguish Native Title
Cultural haritage issue - Previous alte disturbance cannot be confirmed at this time, basic AHIMS search recommended and further assessment again.



- \*R assessment is based an a combination of factors and assessment against specific metrics. Comments relating to RF are general, subject to additional testing, and are based an what is known of the proposed coverage area, height, distance and proceed for the coordinates used are agaraximately in many instances and taken using Google Earth, representing the likely best location on a subject site. Coordinates for a mabile phone base station will often change during landawner negotions.

  \*\*Construction comments above are general and not based on a full assessment by the construction team. Genetic and ground conditions did not form part of the comments above.

### **KENNA Allison**

From: s47F

**Sent:** Sunday, 17 May 2020 4:40 PM

To: \$47F

**Subject:** Fig Tree Hill (Howell) - Native Title Claim [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

### Found this:

http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/RNTC\_details.aspx?NNTT\_Fileno=NC2011/006

s47F

**For Official Use Only**