



3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Item 4.1 Opposition to proposed Mobile Base Station for Optus and Vodafone

A Joint Letter of 3 signatures, and a petition containing 120 signatures, was received from members of the community.

The Joint Letter states the following: -

This letter sets out the formal opposition of a large number of concerned local residents to the proposed Mobile Base Station for Optus and Vodafone, to be located on the southwest corner of Ormond Esplanade and St Kilda Street, Elwood 3184. A copy of our detailed reasons for opposing the mobile station - as attached - has also been provided to Metasite Pty Ltd, a company acting on behalf of Optus as part of the consultation process as well as relevant Port Phillip and Bayside Council representatives and local State and Federal MPs. Our reasons for opposing this installation are compelling and factual:

1. The proposed station is NOT a Low Impact Facility, but has been positioned as such by Optus to avoid broader Council and Community scrutiny
2. The consultation process adopted by Optus has only made superficial attempts to contact and inform local residents
3. The EME report is fundamentally deficient by not taking into account other, known mobile stations in the area, and hence understating the potential impacts of the new station
4. There is growing evidence of the adverse health impacts of such technology, especially for children and people with electrosensitivity (EHS), with many countries moving to restrict exposure of these groups to such technology

Given these facts:

- What is Council going to do to ensure proper process and community consultation is applied to this matter?
- How can it be considered Low Impact when Optus replaced an old inoperative light pole with a large monopole which is to be nearly 14m high, in a park and opposite high density apartment complexes?
- How can residents be assured that there is no risk from cumulative EME emissions at stated in the Optus reports when 2 existing towers at the same location were not included in any measurement?
- How can the community be confident that any new towers are being placed in locations that are safe to residents based on EM E emissions reports for 5G, which is untested?

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- And what processes are in place to ensure that the assertions of Optus are properly tested and monitored post implementation?

We request that Council convene an open forum to enable the local community to air its considered concerns with Optus representatives, with the Forum attended by nominated officers of Council and relevant Councillors.

We trust that the Council will ensure that the proper assessment process is followed for this complex matter, as well as ensuring that the health and welfare of its constituents, especially young children, are properly taken into account, in any final decision.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Receives and notes the Joint Letter and provides a response at a future Council Meeting.

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ATTACHMENTS Nil