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Subject: Online Submission

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RE: DA2020/0661 - 7356 / 1167221 Huston Parade NORTH CURL CURL NSW 2099

Development Application DA2020/0661 7356/1167221 Huston Parade North Curl Curl 2099 I object to DA and proposed location of the Optus mobile 25.7 high monopole facility, associated antennas, remote radio units and outdoor cabinets and 3-bay OTC on elevated platform in John Fisher Park adjacent Abbott Road Field No. 5. I also oppose removal of the existing council floodlight in order for this proposal to proceed.

Under the Warringah LEP 2011 telecommunication facilities are not permitted without consent nor are they permitted with consent and are therefore prohibited at the proposed location. Optus in their DA state that SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 prevails over the Warringah LEP 2011 and accordingly it may be possible to build a telecommunications tower on land designated RE1 Public Recreation with consent from Northern Beaches Council. Based on the submission below it is requested that Northern Beaches council does not provide this consent.

The NSW Telecommunications Facilities Guidelines require that telecommunications facilities should be designed and sited to minimise visual impact, co-located whenever practical, meet health standards for exposure to radio emissions, and minimise disturbance and risk, and maximise compliance. The application made by Optus does not meet one or more of these guidelines.

Further, the council is reminded that they are required to protect environmentally sensitive areas from overdevelopment or visually intrusive development so that scenic qualities, as well as the biological and ecological values of those areas, are maintained. Inadequate phone signal should not be grounds to justify the impacts of the application.

The installation of a telecommunications monopole and affiliated platform within the public open space area does not allow for use for recreation purposes and does not provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses or enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes. The installation will not protect, manage and restore public land that is of ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic value. In fact the development could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values. The proposed development does not complement the landscape character and public use and enjoyment of the park. The telecommunications facility is not consistent with the public open space landscape character. The height, materials and siting will be to the detriment of enjoyment of the open space and will alter the visual aesthetic of John Fisher Reserve. The design is ugly and any height increase is unacceptable.

Problems with DA

In their DA, Optus states they "will require the installation of a new telecommunication facility in the Curl Curl area" to address an area of poor network coverage in particular around Curl Curl Beach and the properties on the southern side of Curl Curl lagoon". It is noted that the

proposed tower (see Figures 2 and 3 of the Statement of Environmental Effects) does not appear to significantly improve coverage around either Curl Curl Beach or the properties on the southern side of Curl Curl lagoon. It is therefore not understood why this tower is needed. Further it is noted that this Figure was modelled based on the presently proposed 25.7m height. It is clear that in order to obtain the "required" improvement in coverage in South Curl Curl, Optus will likely need to further increase the height of the tower above the proposed 25.7m. It is noted that the original proposal at this site was to install antennas at a height of 28.3m.

It is not even clear that a mobile phone tower is required. Optus on their website do not show that there is any issue with coverage. Coverage in the area is stated to be "Good" or "Great". Reference is made to the interactive coverage map on that website.

Optus refer to the existing telecommunication sites. On reviewing this documentation, it is not understood why Optus cannot co-locate to the site identified as 2096006. It is noted that Vodafone has sufficient coverage in the area. Surely the 10m wooden Ausgrid power pole could be modified to support additional equipment. It is also not understood why a 20m pole would be required. It is also noted that the address given for potential candidate identified as C at 23 Pitt Road in the DA is incorrect. In any event the review of alternate locations demonstrates that another location or a far less dominant structure could be provided.

In addition it is noted that the site was originally discounted by Optus due to environmental impacts and negative feedback from the community (Table 2 of the Statement of Environmental Effects). Nothing has changed regarding environmental impacts/negative feedback.

It is not understood why Optus is again lodging a DA for installation of a Telecommunications Facility (Monopole) with associated equipment shelter in view of the similar application DA2017/0298 which was previously refused by council under various Sections of 79C(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 inclusive but not limited to:

- (a) unacceptable impact with regard to the natural and built environments and the social impacts in the locality; and
- (b) public interest.

Reference is made to the development application assessment report and notice of determination of Council in DA 2017/0298. The ten reasons for refusal against that DA also apply to this DA. It is noted that the proposed location in this DA is even closer to a major public school, closer to the lagoon and closer to a sporting field than the previously filed application.

It is noted that much of the documentation on which Optus relies is outdated (a community consultation from 2015) or unclear, for example, referring to Adams Street Reserve (see the Environmental EME Report).

Location

The location is inappropriate. The proposed location is open space area being public parkland. The area is zoned RE1 (public recreation). The proposed tower is adjacent major sporting fields used for soccer, netball, cricket and baseball by both adults and children (including use for school sport). In fact the proposed tower and proposed platform are directly next to a baseball cage with associated seating. The proposed development is also in close proximity to environmentally sensitive area, being a lagoon.

The proposed location is also close to a skate park, a community centre (which is hired for various community functions and activities including a church), a community nursery, residential houses, a sports centre and a public primary school (350m away). It is noted that the Statement of Environmental Effects neglects to provide information on how close the proposed telecommunication facility is to the skate park, the community centre, the community garden and sports centre aside from stating that the nearest adjoining property is approximately 100m away.

There is high pedestrian traffic in the area. The Alan Newton reserve walkway drops into this area of the park directly adjacent the lagoon which may be followed to the sports centre and children's play area. It is noted that the affiliated platform which is proposed to be placed behind the baseball cage, will impede pedestrian traffic flow between the cage and the lagoon (the only direct route available when a baseball game is in progress). The proposed lease area also appears to cover all of the area behind the baseball mesh up to the planted rehabilitated area. It follows that the proposed development will impede pedestrian traffic and directly impact enjoyment of that area of the lagoon.

Another issue with the location is the lack of security with respect to the monopole and affiliated platform having regard, for example, to vandalism, and access to the platform to retrieve lost soccer or baseballs.

Visual Impact

The tower and affiliated platform will detract from the natural environment in its immediate locality and from other zones from which the tower will be visible. The tower and associated structures are unattractive and the proposed monopole is not at all like the present flood light pole. The proposed monopole is 25.7 metres in height and far greater in height than surrounding development, which in the immediate vicinity is primarily public open space. Further the proposed monopole will be significantly higher than the present light pole (at 22m) and bulkier (fatter) by the placement of the antennas. In view of its greater height and bulk it will stick out like a sore thumb.

At the proposed location, the height and scale of the pole will be viewable from a significant number of public viewing places with high visitation rates. On a walk around the area it is possible to view the relevant existing flood light pole from within the park itself, the Griffin Road Bridge, the walking path on the other side of the lagoon, the North Curl Surf Club, the Headland Walk, the beachfront, the dog park and from residential areas on both sides of the lagoon. The tower will also impede views of the lagoon.

It follows that the proposed telecommunication facility will result in an adverse visual impact on the natural or built environment. Scenic qualities and natural qualities will be detrimentally impacted by the installation of the telecommunications tower at John Fisher Park as proposed. The views of the structure will create high impacts from many locations which is undesirable and unacceptable in this natural precinct. The siting of the tower will mean that it is visually prominent both in the immediate vicinity and from a distance. Similarly, the associated structures will have a strong visual presence from within the reserve area.

Ecological Impact

The proposed area next to the lagoon has been recently rehabilitated. It is noted that recently planted native tubestock will be impacted by the proposal. In any event the structure, being excessive will be a detriment to the natural environment.

Electromagnetic Radiation

Despite Optus stating that the proposal complies with the relevant Australian standard concerning electromagnetic radiation, there is still debate concerning impact of radiation on human health.

Non-compliance with certain statutory instruments

The proposed DA does not comply with the John Fisher Park Plan of Management which seeks to retain and improve the natural environment, improve and upgrade sporting and community facilities. The park is public open space to be used by the community and retained as ecologically sustainable parkland. That plan does not include development in the form of any private telecommunications facility and certainly does not include installation of a telecommunications tower of excessive height at the proposed site. The installation would be at odds with the desired outcomes for the public open space location.

The proposal is not in keeping with councils own Curl Curl Lagoon Estuary Management Plan to maintain the natural integrity of the Curl Curl Lagoon system and to develop the area as a favourable environment for flora and fauna and an attractive recreational area for the public. The proposed tower will certainly not improve the aesthetic value or the ecological health of the lagoon system.