
Sent: 27/08/2020 5:11:05 PM
Subject: DA 2020/0661 - Submission
Attachments: DA2020-0661 Submission MDS.pdf;

Please find attached my submission on subject DA.

With thanks

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27 August 2020

The Assessing Officer
Development Assessment
Northern Beaches Council

Sent by:

Mark Stack

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Dear Sir,

RE: DA 2020 / 0661 – Construction of a telecommunications facility with associated equipment - John Fisher Park



Good for our national capital, so why not John Fisher Park?

Telecommunication towers play a vital role in the modern world. Australia’s national capital is overseen by an iconic piece of telecommunications architecture. But a comparison of Canberra’s tower with that proposed for John Fisher Park helps to expose the fundamental flaws in Optus’s telecommunication solution design.

Design aspect	Telstra Tower - Canberra	Optus proposed tower – John Fisher Park
Scale	A 200m tower but dwarfed by topology and size of surrounding vegetated area	Tower is 3x height of next tallest building in John Fisher Park.
Situation	Peripheral to and distant from main areas of human activity	‘In your face’ for most Park users. Applies to both tower and ground sheds.
Aesthetics	Elegant form combining classic spire lines with modern technology. Complements natural setting. Ancillary equipment is concealed.	Design is purely functional. Minimum height requirement of 25.7m precludes achieving any sense of proportion or balance. An aesthetic solution for ground sheds does not seem possible.
Social benefit	Provides efficient communications to the process of government in Australia.	Optus’s explanation of the social benefits of their proposal is unconvincing.

The application’s *Statement of Environmental Effects* is deficient in that it fails to tell the whole truth about what the ‘telco facility’ is likely to look like in future. Council themselves have warned of the risk that in due course more antennas will be added to the tower, the number of ground sheds will grow and vandalism of sheds will create a situation resembling that at Plateau Park at Collaroy Plateau.



Council warn of risk that proposed tower will come to resemble similar telco facilities elsewhere on Northern Beaches. (Plateau Park, Collaroy Plateau.)

In comparison with the Canberra tower, the telecommunications facility proposed for John Fisher Park is a visually dominant piece of infrastructure at odds with its natural environment, with no visual appeal whatsoever and providing dubious social benefit.

In recent years Council's strategic plans and community communications have been referring to the importance of '*place*' and '*place making*'. Council's planning activities are the responsibility of the '*Strategic & Place Planning*' unit. Community consultation is managed via the '*Places for People*' strategic reference group.

In the case of, for example, the establishment of the new reflective space garden area at Stirgess Reserve, Council have interpreted and realised the concept of '*place*' very successfully. However, Optus's tower proposal for the northern bank of the Lagoon is clearly in the wrong '*place*'.

For these reasons Council should decisively stand up to Optus, refuse DA2020/0661 outright and counsel them against lodging any future applications in John Fisher Park. It is a patent abuse of the development application process and simply ludicrous that residents must put time and effort into challenging such applications every couple of years.

Thank you for the extended opportunity to make a submission on this matter.

Mark Stack