

**To: Northern Beaches Local Planning Panel members**

**Re: DA2020/0661 - 7356 / 1167221 Huston Parade NORTH CURL CURL NSW 2099**  
**Location: John Fisher Parker Field No. 5**  
**Proposal for an Optus tower and associated equipment**

13 October 2020

Dear Panel Members

I was shocked at the Assessment Report's recommendation for approval of this project, largely because the 2017 Opus application for a tower south of the lagoon was refused. The Responsible Officer for that DA and the present DA is the same Consultant Planner. She has done a complete about face in her 2020 assessment.

What has changed?

In 2017, of 139 submissions, 133 opposed the tower, as did 839 signatories to a petition. In 2020, of 390 submissions, 376 opposed the tower, as did 114 signatories to a petition.

The 2017 proposal was refused.

The 2020 proposal, with three times as many online submissions objecting as in 2017, is recommended for approval.

(Was it the 839 signatures that impressed the Responsible Officer in 2017? Will collecting another 725 signatures in 2020 make an impact?)

In 2017, the Responsible Officer was sympathetic with the many residents who opposed the tower on health and school health grounds.

In 2020, she dismisses their concerns, saying they are "not an issue".

On the matters of Visual Impact and Inappropriate Location, the Responsible Officer's 2017 comments were the exact opposite of what they are in 2020.

The community is questioning other aspects of how this proposal has been handled:

- location advertised as Huston Parade
- original notification letters not received
- meeting scheduled on short notice and for when residents are likely to be away
- failure to update website with correct location of proposed tower

Some submissions even suggest deliberate obfuscation to keep residents in the dark.

Regarding the last dot point above:

On August 4 I emailed my Curl Curl Ward councillors, questioning why Council's website still falsely listed only Huston Parade as the tower's location even though **Abbott Road Grounds, John Fisher Park Field No. 5** had been added to signage and to Renotification letters on July 24. I was forwarded the following explanation:

*The description of the site is identified as **Abbott Roads Grounds, Fisher Park Field No. 5**, and also included the legal description of the land including Lot and DP as well as the rateable property address which is Huston Parade, as it is made up of multiple part lots.*

*Whilst I appreciate the concerns that the members of the community have raised in relation to the notification and property description, council must exhibit the application*

*with the proper legal address, that being Huston Parade. If Council did not exhibit the legal property description we risk a class 4 challenge to the validity of any consent that may be granted.*

On August 6 I replied that this being the case, DAs of this type need to show both an **address** and a **location**, and presently there is no place on the DA webpage to list an address. I suggested that Huston Parade be listed as "Address", "Legal address", "Rateable address", "Official address" or whatever; that **Abbott Road Grounds, John Fisher Park Field No. 5** be listed as the location; and that a marker pin be put on the map to show the proposed site for the tower within Field No. 5. This would remove the ambiguity that has plagued this DA from the beginning.

I further suggested that for consistency, all DAs could show both an address and a location. In most cases, they would simply be the same.

I never received a response to that email of August 6. The website continues to list (only) Huston Parade as the proposed tower's location.

On the matter of coverage and need for a tower:

I have no problem with my Optus fixed broadband and landline phone service, but my Optus mobile reception is so poor my mobile phone is mostly useless when I am at home. I must go to my back yard to accept mobile phone calls and to send some texts. Home banking on my PC frequently times out before the needed SMS security code arrives. Every visitor to my home, regardless of their provider, has the same experience so I assumed the entire area was a blackspot because of our topography. It was a revelation to learn on reading the 390 submissions to this DA that this is not the case, and that some other Optus customers, including a next-door neighbour, have no mobile reception problem.

The Optus website advertises good or great **outdoor** mobile reception but Urbis's Mr Mills admits not every outdoor location was tested. What is frightening is his prediction that with increased demand, the situation is only going to get worse.

In my original submission on July 24, I said that a tower was sorely needed because of the appalling reception (I then thought everyone had) in this area, but **not in this location**, or anywhere on both sides of the lagoon, from Griffin Road to Harbord Road. This is still my view. Although I hate the inconvenience, I would rather continue living with my bad reception than see this tower erected in any part of John Fisher Park.

Your sincerely

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