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

I was surprised to discover that Optus is once again attempting to build a telephone tower in the vicinity of John Fisher Park and Curl Curl Lagoon, given the amount of opposition they encountered on previous attempts. I am also disappointed with the deception of the flyers that have been posted - as well as the information on NB Council's website, both listing the address as Huston Parade NORTH CURL CURL NSW 2099. When viewing the application on Council's website, there's no easy link to the plans either. I had to scroll down the items in the Documents tab to locate it. The only reason I knew that the tower was actually going to be built in the playing fields was because a neighbour told me.

I am even more disappointed that no community consultation has been deemed necessary. Is that because it already took place in 2015? That community consultation showed that there was great OPPOSITION to a tower being built in this area. There hasn't even been a letter drop advising nearby residents of the current proposed development - or if there was, they missed our house. Also, the timing of the application is such that many concerned residents will be away for school holidays and possibly only find out about the application after it's too late to make a submission.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this application for many reasons. Telco towers do not belong in public parks and reserves. In 2017 Optus's application to erect a tower in the playing fields on the opposite side of the lagoon was rejected because of community opposition - and the grounds for refusal haven't been satisfactorily met in their new application.

I am concerned with the potential health effects - especially given the vast number of children and young people who spend time in the area. The playing fields are used extensively by a variety of sporting groups and many families and others (both young and old) use the fields and paved netball courts when sporting activities aren't scheduled. Curl Curl North Public School, Curly Community Garden and a few community centres are also in close proximity. Even if there is currently no consensus about the effect of electromagnetic emissions on health and safety, it is better to be safe than sorry.

I am concerned about the visual impact of the proposed tower and elevated steel platform. Curl Curl Lagoon Friends has spent years trying to rehabilitate the lagoon and the surrounding areas. This is an area where people come to enjoy nature. The huge tower and big steel structure are totally out of place - and better suited to an industrial area.

Almost all of us have mobile phones, so some towers are obviously necessary. But I am not aware of any great problem with reception in this area. How many people would actually benefit from this tower? If there is an actual need, there has to be a location that is more suitable than a parkland area beside playing fields.