

9.2 - Notice of Motion – Whitby Telecommunications Tower (SJ4373)

Elected Member	Councillor Duggin
Disclosure of Officers Interest:	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Duggin via email on Thursday, 8 February 2024.

The Notice of Motion is “That Council REQUESTS the President write to the responsible Federal Minister for Communications, Hon Michelle Rowland MP, requesting that the Federal Government urgently assist in completing the new telecommunications infrastructure project (comprising new mobile phone tower) and taking place at L116 (#245) Keirnan Street, Whitby. This request should set out the following:

- That the development application for the new mobile phone tower was approved by the Shire in early 2023;
- That the application documented its key purpose in order to address a critical blackspot in mobile phone coverage, which is affecting communities in Mundijong, Whitby and Cardup, all of which are bushfire prone areas;
- That there are a number of vulnerable communities who are placed at greater risk due to the lack of acceptable mobile phone signal coverage, especially not the hazard of bushfire that would directly impact these communities;
- That the tower was built and complete in September 2023, however the functional panel antennas have not yet been installed, and the Shire / community have been advised that the installation date will be no earlier than the second half of this year.”

Relevant Previous Decisions of Council

Ordinary Council Meeting - 20 February 2023 - OCM010/02/23 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION / Councillor Recommendation

Part 1

That Council REVOKES decision OC269/11/22 made at the November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Ordinary Council Meeting - 20 February 2023 - OCM11/02/23 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Part 2

That Council DEFER consideration of the development application to the March Ordinary Council Meeting pending investigation into issues raised by neighbouring residents.

Contact Us

Enquiries

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In Person

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)



www.sjshire.wa.gov.au



*Ordinary Council Meeting - 21 November 2022 – OCM269/11/22 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION
That Council APPROVES the development application for proposed telecommunications tower and associated infrastructure at Lot 116, 245 Kiernan Street, Whitby, as contained within attachment 4, subject to the following conditions:*

a. The development is to be carried out in compliance with the plans and documentation listed below and endorsed with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale stamp, except where amended by other conditions of this consent.

<i>Plans and Specifications</i>	<i>P1-P5 received at the Shire’s Offices on the 11 July 2022</i>
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b. The development is to be setback a distance of 170m from Keirnan Street, within the cleared southwest corner on the subject land. In being relocated, the development is to maintain a minimum 5m setback from the western property boundary and 10m setback from the southern property boundary.

Councillor Byas, in accordance with Section 5.21(4)(b), Local Government Act 1995 requested the votes be recorded.

Councillors Rich, Byas, Dagostino, Duggin, Strange and Strautins voted FOR the motion.

Councillors Coales and Mack, voted AGAINST the motion.

Reason for difference to Officer Recommendation

SPP5.2 states that telecommunication infrastructure should be sited and designed to “minimise visual impact” and where possible be located where such will not detract from a streetscape where viewed from public or private land, under provision 5.1.1(11)(b).

Officer Comment

The proposal received development approval from the Shire on 20 March 2023. This approval has begun to be implemented, with the 35m high monopole having now been erected together with ground level chain-link fencing for the compound. However, the functional elements of the development (being the headframe, panel antennas and equipment shelter) are yet to be erected.

Correspondence received from Telstra on 31 January 2024 indicates that some delays have occurred in the construction process, including some issues with power supply. The indicative completion is in the second half of 2024 calendar year.

Advocating to the responsible Federal Minister may assist in raising awareness of the delay, and the importance of the infrastructure for reasons including resident data needs, business data needs and mitigation of hazards through improved mobile coverage.

Attachments (available under separate cover)

Nil.

Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

Elected Member Recommendation

That Council REQUESTS the President write to the responsible Federal Minister for Communications, Hon Michelle Rowland MP, requesting that the Federal Government urgently assist in completing the new telecommunications infrastructure project



(comprising new mobile phone tower) and taking place at L116 (#245) Keirnan Street, Whitby. This request should set out the following:

- a. That the development application for the new mobile phone tower was approved by the Shire in early 2023;**
- b. That the application documented its key purpose in order to address a critical blackspot in mobile phone coverage, which is affecting communities in Mundijong, Whitby and Cardup, all of which are bushfire prone areas;**
- c. That there are a number of vulnerable communities who are placed at greater risk due to the lack of acceptable mobile phone signal coverage, especially not the hazard of bushfire that would directly impact these communities;**
- d. That the tower was built and complete in September 2023, however the functional panel antennas have not yet been installed, and the Shire / community have been advised that the installation date will be no earlier than the second half of this year.**