

Mrs Michelle Lynton
Development Assessment
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

Dear Mrs Lyton

RE: DA 13/201 Telstra mobile phone base station at 80 Depot Road Kings Forest

Thank you for your email to Mr Martin Karm on 31 October 2013, regarding the proposed Telstra mobile phone base station at 80 Depot Road Kings Forest.

The Department of Education and Communities have been working closely with Tweed Shire Council and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in the planning of a potential new school as a result of residential growth and this includes the potential site at King Forest (reference MP 06_0318).

I understand that Telstra has submitted a development application for a mobile phone base station immediately adjacent to the potential government school site at Kings Forest (reference DA 13/201).

The Department of Education and Communities receives regular correspondence from concerned community members of schools in relation to potential impacts of erecting telecommunication infrastructure near schools.

As you are aware, the Department has a policy on telecommunication facilities that are proposed to be installed near schools. The policy adopts a Precautionary Approach, similar to the *Industry Code - Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment* (C564:2011), and states:

The Department of Education and Training adopts a policy of prudent avoidance in relation to the installation of mobile telecommunications facilities within school grounds or TAFE campuses.

While the Department cannot state a specific separation distance between a proposed mobile telecommunications facility and a school or TAFE campus, the Department has a preference for a distance of at least 500 metres from the boundary of the property.



The proposed base station by Telstra does not sit comfortably the Department and I request that precautionary approach in its determination by properly considering the Department's policy and the mobile telecommunications code's objective of avoiding an area being a community sensitive location like schools (reference C564:2011 – Clause 4.1.5 (c) & (d)).

Please contact Martin Karm, Statutory Planner, on 9561 8147 or martin.karm@det.nsw.gov.au if you require further information on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCabe', written in a cursive style.

Tony McCabe
Director, Planning and Delivery

5 November 2013

