

Telecommunications Infrastructure (Monopole & Shelter) 111 Harper Road, BANJUP WA 6164

Some residents of Banjup strongly object to the erection of a mobile phone mast by Optus. Those residents urge Councillors to deny approval for it to be built in the beautiful Banjup landscape.

Residents' reasons for objecting to the mast are these:

1. The installation of a 42m communications mast in the natural setting of Banjup will be visually intrusive and inconsistent with our rural setting. At 42m it will be taller than most trees in the area and with a red light on top it (as does the mast adjacent to the Kwinana freeway nr the rail bridge N of Berrigan Drive) will thus blight our skyline both day and night.
2. The documents provided by Optus present no case for the need for such a mast in the middle of Banjup. The website oztowers.com.au shows that there are 12 phone masts within a 5 km radius of the proposed Banjup mast in Harper Road, most of which are shared by Optus, Vodafone and Telstra. Why must a new mast be erected instead of enhancing of one or two of the other 12? What will the 13th mast achieve that the other 12 could not? No case is presented that Banjup is a 'reception blackspot' or that this new mast will solve it. Again, the oztowers.com.au website indicates that there are no registered 'reception blackspots' requiring remediation in the area.
3. For those living within proximity of the mast, landowners and potential property purchasers will notice its presence. Whilst an eyesore for local residents, public perception for such masts is also generally negative and as such the values of properties from where the mast can be seen will be negatively affected.
4. Residents desiring improved mobile reception should consider that they are living in a rural area which has certain limitations and not destroy the natural environment for which most residents moved here for and which should be protected.
5. The mast appears to be a commercial installation in a rural zoned area.
6. Planning rules constrict land uses within Banjup and residents are continually denied permission to vary their land use or to divide their properties, even just into 2 parts. Yet big business seems to be immune from these constraints and assume that they can erect masts where they will.
7. The mast may affect any future development potential.
8. The owner of the property involved will receive a substantial annual payment from Optus.
9. Radiation from the mast could harm children/residents - there is insufficient evidence that there will be no health impact. Years ago, the public was assured that smoking was harmless.
10. Permission for the Optus mast will set a precedent for additional masts within Banjup.
11. Vodafone is in negotiations for an additional mast within the same area.
12. Has Optus considered other locations on the fringes of Banjup, such as commercial areas around Solomon Road?

Councillors, would you like to have an intimidating 42 metre high mast erected close to your property?

We urge you to deny approval.