



# PROPOSED TELSTRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK BASE STATION AT 285 WARATAH ROAD, SANDY POINT, 3959

February 2016



This report predicts that the maximum signal strength from the Proposed Facility at 1.5m above ground level, is well within the allowable limit that it is permitted to transmit over a 24 hour period. This is typical of Telstra's responsible approach to network performance and environmental compliance.

*"Health authorities, including ARPANSA and the WHO have examined the scientific evidence regarding possible health effects from base stations. Current research indicates that there are no established health effects from the low exposure to the RF EME exposure from mobile phone base station antennas."*

ARPANSA Fact sheet "Mobile Base Stations and Health" March 2015

## Further information about EMF

Commonwealth Department of Health (ARPANSA) [www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)

World Health Organisation (WHO) [www.who.int/en/](http://www.who.int/en/)

## Consultation

Telstra has lodged a Development Application with the South Gippsland Shire Council for the Proposed Facility and is keen to receive your feedback regarding this proposal.

In the interest of open and transparent information sharing, Telstra is undertaking consultation with surrounding residents, businesses and community members as we believe that the community should be kept up to date about changes to the local telecommunications infrastructure.

## Contacts

Any questions/feedback in relation to the Proposed Facility should be directed in writing to Emily Wardlaw at the address below or via email to [consultation@acquirecomm.com.au](mailto:consultation@acquirecomm.com.au):

Excomm Integrated Services  
Shop 3, 157 Martin St  
Brighton VIC 3186

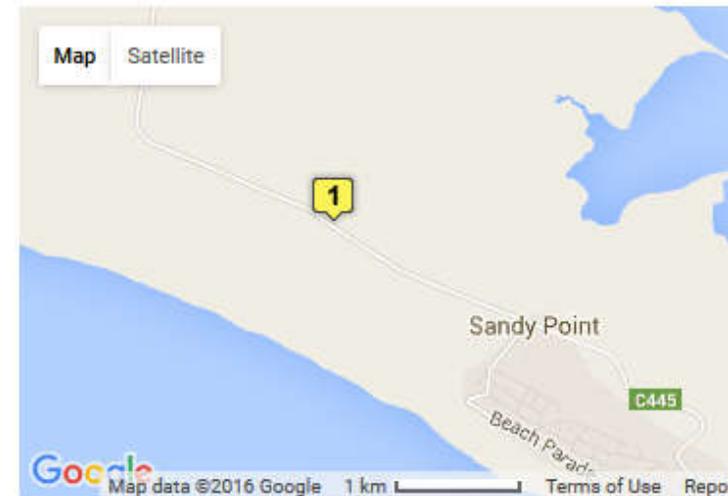


Figure 1: Location of Proposed Telecommunications Network Base Station at 285 Waratah Rd, Sandy Point



## Mobile Black Spot Programme

Telstra will participate in one of the largest ever expansions of mobile coverage in regional and remote Australia, through the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Programme. Telstra will be building 429 new 3G/4G base stations over the next three years, plus a further 250 4G data only small cells, representing a combined investment of more than \$340 million in regional and remote Australia by Telstra, the Federal Government and several State and Local Governments as well.

## What is the proposal for Sandy Point?

As part of the Mobile Black Spot Programme

a new 3G /4G telecommunications network base station is proposed at the existing Telstra Exchange at 285 Waratah Rd, Sandy Point (Proposed Facility).

The Proposed Facility will comprise the following:

- a 40 metre high monopole;
- six (6) Panel antennas, six (6) Remote radio units and six (6) Tower mounted amplifiers mounted on a headframe attached to the top of the monopole; and
- ancillary works including cabling.

The existing equipment shelter, fencing and access gates will remain unaltered.

This proposal requires planning approval



from the South Gippsland Shire Council. The location of the Proposed Facility is consistent with the relevant provisions of the South Gippsland Planning Scheme and is considered to be appropriate for the following reasons:

- It will provide Sandy Point with access to more reliable telecommunications services.
- The Proposed Facility is to be located at an existing Telstra Exchange which is located just outside the Sandy Point township. This will assist in achieving the best possible network performance in the Sandy Point area;
- No vegetation will need to be removed as part of the proposal; and
- The existing roadside vegetation will provide partial screening of the Proposed Facility when viewed from Waratah Road and surrounding rural properties and will assist to reduce any potential visual impact.

### Why does Telstra need a new facility at Sandy Point?

Telstra is aware of the Sandy Point community's requests for more reliable mobile

communications and has received a number of submission requesting a new telecommunications facility.

Sandy Point was identified as a mobile network black spot during Round One of the Federal Government's Black Spot Programme and was one of the 499 sites that were successful in being funded for build.

The parameters for the Programme were set by the Federal Government. A number of factors determined which areas received funding, including the lack of outdoor coverage and the number of people who would benefit from a new facility.

In the *Mobile Black Spot Programme Discussion, Australian Government Department of Communications 2013*, it states that;

*"The Mobile Black Spot Programme will improve mobile phone coverage and competition in regional and remote Australia, including along major transport routes, in small communities and in locations prone to experiencing natural disasters.*

*The Guidelines aim to ensure the Programme is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible, and achieve maximum value for money."*

### Base Stations and Health

Telstra understands that some people have genuine concerns about the levels of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) that the Proposed Facility will emit and is committed to addressing those concerns responsibly. EMF is sometimes known as electromagnetic radiation (EMR) or electromagnetic energy (EME). Electromagnetic fields are present everywhere in our environment – the earth, sun and ionosphere are all natural sources of EMF.



Figure 2: Location of proposed facility at the existing Telstra Exchange

We rely on the expert advice of international and national health authorities including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) for overall assessments of health and safety impacts.

The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has issued guidelines on levels of allowable public exposure to Radio Frequency (RF) fields, including guidelines on RF from mobile phones and base stations that Telstra adheres to. These guidelines have a large safety margin built into them.

In addition, further information is available at: [www.telstra.com.au/eme](http://www.telstra.com.au/eme) and EMF Explained Series [www.emfexplained.info](http://www.emfexplained.info)

### Does the Proposed Facility meet the ARPANSA safety limit?

It is Telstra's responsibility to comply with the mandated standard (RPS3) for EMF set by ARPANSA, which is based on the safety guidelines recommended by the WHO. The safety standard works by limiting the network signal to a level low enough to protect all people, in all environments, 24 hours a day. The safety limit itself has a significant safety margin built into it.

To demonstrate compliance with the safety standard, an Environmental EME Report is available via the RFNSA website:

[www.rfnsa.com.au/3959004](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/3959004)

