

SECTION 21 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

21.1 INTRODUCTION

Telecommunications facilities can have a substantial impact on the physical environment as well as the health and well being of the community. A sensitive approach to the location and design of these facilities can reduce these impacts to some extent.

The provisions in this section aim to reduce the likelihood of harm associated with telecommunications facilities to the community and to regulate their presence in the built environment. These facilities can have significant impacts on the streetscape of residential neighbourhoods through visual clutter.

21.1.1 General Objectives

The general objectives of this Section of the DCP are:

- O1 To ensure that telecommunication facilities are appropriately designed and located such that they have minimal impacts on:
- (a) The visual amenity of a locality;
 - (b) The health and safety of the community; and
 - (c) The significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas.

21.1.2 When does this section of the DCP apply?

This section of the DCP applies to all telecommunications facilities for which either development consent is required or for which the Council is to be notified. It applies to facilities to be installed by carriers who are licensed under the [Telecommunications Act 1997](#). For example, the siting of micro cells for mobile phone use serving a small area, as part of a telecommunications network operated by the carrier. It also applies to telecommunications facilities installed by or on behalf of non-carriers. For example, a satellite dish installed on a residential building or a commercial building for use by the occupants of that building, work that would normally be considered as ancillary to the primary use of the building.

This section should also be read in conjunction with the following:

- (a) [Telecommunications Act 1997](#);
- (b) [Telecommunications \(Low- Impact Facilities\) Determination 2018](#);
- (c) [Telecommunications Code of Practice 2018](#);
- (d) [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Infrastructure\) 2007](#);
- (e) *NSW Telecommunications Facilities Guidelines - Including Broadband (July 2010)*; and
- (f) North Sydney Council's *Public Telephones on Footpaths Policy*.

21.1.3 Relationships to Other Sections

Where relevant, this section of the DCP should be read in conjunction with the following Sections of the DCP:

- (a) Part A: Section 3 – Submitting an Application.

21.2 LOCATION

Objectives

- O1 To encourage the use of a precautionary approach to site selection, design and operation of telecommunications infrastructure.



- O2 To minimise the possible adverse public health effects of electromagnetic radiation emitted from telecommunications facilities.
- O3 To encourage the separation of transmitters emitting electromagnetic radiation from concentrations of possible at-risk populations, such as hospitals, retirement villages, schools, childcare centres, children’s playgrounds as well as residential land uses where practicable and reasonable.
- O4 To minimise the visibility and visual impact of telecommunications infrastructure and to ensure the character of a locality is considered by telecommunication carriers in selecting sites.
- O5 To provide guidance to telecommunication carriers about the requirements for site selection to ensure reasonable and equitable access to telecommunication technology.

Provisions

- P1 Telecommunication facilities are to be located in accordance with the *NSW Telecommunications Facilities Guideline including Broadband*.
- P2 Public telephones are to be located in accordance with Council’s *Public Telephones on Footpaths Policy*.
- P3 Telecommunications facilities should be separated from sensitive activities such as hospitals, retirement villages, schools, childcare centres, children’s playgrounds as well as residential land uses.
- P4 Telecommunications facilities are to be located on land within the B1 – Neighbourhood business, B3 – Commercial Core, B4 – Mixed Use, IN2 - Light Industrial or IN4 – Working Waterfront zones in preference to residential zones (R2, R3 and R4).
- P5 Telecommunications facilities and associated equipment boxes are to be located underground wherever possible.
- P6 Avoid locating equipment boxes on rooftops and power poles.
- P7 Telecommunication facilities should be sited to avoid interruption to views.
- P8 Telecommunication facilities must not be located where they interrupt pedestrian or vehicular movement.

21.3 DESIGN

Objectives

- O1 To minimise the visual impacts of telecommunication facilities and associated infrastructure on streetscapes.

Provisions

- P1 Telecommunication facilities are to be designed in accordance with the *NSW Telecommunications Facilities Guideline including Broadband*.
- P2 Where telecommunication facilities are to be provided underground:
 - (a) All surface openings and access covers must match existing pavement finishes and materials (For instance, either with Council’s specified brick pavers, sandstone blocks or concrete); and
 - (b) Associated air vents are to be located such that they are not visually intrusive (For instance, located under seats or within bus shelters).
- P3 Use building features, such as false panels, clock towers and disused chimneys, to conceal telecommunications facilities, but avoid use of fake trees and other novelty effects.
- P4 Where surface mounted facilities are proposed, they must be integrated with the building or structure to which they are attached, such that the facility:
 - (a) colour matches the background material;



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- (b) has non-reflective surface materials and finishes;
- (c) has minimal horizontal or vertical protrusion when mounted flush with wall; and
- (d) is positioned high on the wall or structure to which the facility is attached.

21.4 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS OF WORKS

Objectives

- O1 To minimise damage and inconvenience caused by telecommunications facilities or activities.

Provisions

- P1 Telecommunication facilities are to be constructed in accordance with Principle 4 under section 2.2 of the *NSW Telecommunications Facilities Guideline including Broadband*.



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