

3GIS ACT Network Plan

CONSULTATION REPORT

3GIS

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1. Introduction

The 3GIS ACT Network Plan prepared under the Authority Guideline for Telecommunications (Mobile Phone) Networks, has been produced in close consultation with the ACT Planning and Land Authority (the Authority) and a range of ACT Government agencies to facilitate the roll-out of a 3rd generation (3G) network of mobile telephone base stations across the ACT.

Telstra and Hutchison (H3GA), two of Australia's major mobile telecommunication Carriers, have formed a joint partnership working company to establish a single shared network utilising third generation (3G) mobile telecommunication technology. The joint partnership company named "3GIS Pty Ltd" (3GIS) will build and deliver the shared 3G network infrastructure which will be used by the partners to each deliver competitive 3G mobile services.

The Authority Guideline for (mobile phones) Networks requires that:

the Network Plan be subject to 15 business days of community consultation, which shall involve placing a public notice in a daily newspaper and inviting written comments, a letter box drop to all households within a radius of at least 100 metres of each base station or as agreed by the Authority. Signs must be placed on the land at the location of each base station, except where such signs would cause a traffic hazard, namely for base stations proposed for roundabouts.

All community consultation notices shall be in the format nominated by the Authority. Draft network plans must be made available for display at the Authority's customer service centre and at other locations (such as a local library) required by the Authority. All comments received during the community consultation period must be taken into account in finalising the network plan. A consultation report detailing the method and extent of consultation must be submitted with the final network plan. The consultation report must provide written responses on all submissions received during community consultation period, including details of any amendments made to the network plan as a consequence of a submission.

The content and structure of the letter, site notice and public notice was largely established by the Authority and were designed reflect that of similar notices used in the normal development application consultation process.

The Authority Guideline for Telecommunications (Mobile Phones) Networks places the responsibility for the receiving, management and reply of the public consultation process on the Network Plan proponent, 3GIS Pty. Ltd. As agents for 3GIS, Daly International has implemented, monitored, managed and responded to any representations from the public regarding the proposed 3GIS telecommunications sites.

This report has been prepared for the ACT Planning & Land Authority so officers may consider and assess the public representations as part of the determination of the 3GIS Network Plan.

2. Public Consultation Methodology

In conformity with The Authority Guideline for Telecommunications (Mobile Phones) Networks 3GIS Network Plan has been publicly advertised by a variety of different methods. These are detailed below :

- **Letters** – Daly International (on behalf of 3GIS) consulted with ACT Planning & Land Authority in regard to each site which forms part of the Network Plan to agree which properties would be sent a letter advising of the proposed 3GIS facility in their locality.

The extent of consultation was intended to reflect that of a normal development application consultation process and was determined in conjunction with the Authority. Where there was a question over the extent of consultation, the proponent often offered resolved to consult more rather than less surrounding properties.

Letters were posted on the 30th November 2005 and advised the addressee that a Network Plan proposal had been submitted to the ACT Planning & Land Authority and detailed the location and design of the proposed 3GIS facility. The letter also advised the methods of reply should the addressee wish to make any representation. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix A.

- **Site notice** – a notice detailing the location and design of the proposed 3GIS facility and the methods of submitting a representation were located at the site of each proposed 3GIS facility (apart from those locations which the ACT Planning & Land Authority advised would result in a traffic danger) by the 30th November 2005. The sign was located in a position which could be seen by the public. A copy of this sign is attached at Appendix B.
- **Public notice in newspaper** – a public notice was published in the classifieds section (page 17) of The Canberra Times on Wednesday 30th November 2005. This advised that a Network Plan application had been submitted to ACT Planning & Land Authority and listed all the proposed 3GIS facilities, which form part of the Network Plan, and detailed the proposed location and design of the development. A copy of the public notice is attached at Appendix C.
- **Internet** – an electronic copy of the 3GIS Network Plan was published on the ACT Planning & Land Authorities internet site on the 30th November 2005. This was advertised on the Authorities home page and had a direct hyperlink to the Network Plan documents.

The information on the Authorities web site also advised how representations could be made to the proposed 3GIS development.

- **Public libraries** – a paper copy of the 3GIS Network Plan was distributed to all libraries in Canberra by the 30th November 2005 to make the document available in local communities.

All consultation notices were in a format nominated by the Authority.

The site notice, newspaper notice and ACT Planning and Land Authority web site advised that submissions must be received by the Authority by close of business on the 20th December 2005. The letters advised that submissions must be received by the Authority by the 22nd December 2005. This allowed a period of at least 15 business days for each of the public notification methods. Notwithstanding this, Daly International, on behalf of 3GIS, has continued to take representations into 2006.

For the sakes of this report, a cut-off date of 31 December 2005 has been applied. It has not been possible to include any responses received after this date, excepting the public meeting at Campbell of 6th February 2006, although all responses received in 2006 will continue to be handled and responded to in a responsible and appropriate manner. In all the submissions received after the cut-off date, no new issues were raised in addition to those already reported.

3. Managing Representations

Public representations were received by Daly International by telephone, letter and email. Some representations were sent directly to Daly International and others were sent to the ACT Planning and Land Authority who forwarded the representation on to Daly International.

Daly International has recorded the details of each representation including who it was from, when it was received, which proposed 3GIS facility it relates to and whether it is in support of the development, in opposition to the development or simply required additional information about the development.

Once these details had been ascertained Daly International has replied to the interested party via the most appropriate medium, be it by telephone, letter or email. The reply would seek to answer any questions, issues or matters raised by the person(s) who submitted the representation. In a number of instances this has resulted in a number of telephone calls or emails being exchanged by the interested party and Daly International. This enabled further and specific information to be provided to the interested party and has allowed Daly International to fully understand the matters being raised.

Where appropriate Daly International has provided interested parties with additional information in the form of the ACMA & ARPANSA Mobile Phone

Towers and EME – Information for Communities and Councils pack and / or an extract from the Master Document in Section 1 of the 3GIS Network Plan regarding the constraints on location of 3GIS facilities. The contents of the ACMA & ARPANSA pack can be found attached at Appendix D and the extract from the Master Document can be found attached at Appendix E.

A Public Consultation Reply spreadsheet has been prepared to summarise details of all representations received; the associated response from Daly International and if any further action is considered to be required (see attached spreadsheet overleaf).

5. Conclusion

Daly International has received 71 separate representations from different individuals regarding the Network Plan. These break down as 47 (66%) in objection, 21 (30%) requested further information and 3 (4%) in support of the Network Plan.

As a result of the Public Consultation and Whole Government Consultation, amendments have been made to certain sites and the changes are noted in the Site Specific Detail Sheet and relevant drawings. These are as follows:

- **3GIS site 3 – Pearce**
- **3GIS site 5 – O’Connor**
- **3GIS site 8 – Palmerston**
- **3GIS site 10 – North Kambah**
- **3GIS site 11 – Red Hill**
- **3GIS site 13 – Narrabundah**
- **3GIS site 19 – Dunlop**
- **3GIS site 21 – Ainslie**
- **3GIS site 22 – Ngunnawal**
- **3GIS site 24 – Hume**

It is considered that the total number of objections received in response to the public consultation exercise is relatively low considering the total number of sites involved. The exercise demonstrates that the public’s main consideration has been with regard to the perceived adverse health effects from mobile base station facilities. Other concerns and objections have been raised on such grounds as; aesthetics, property prices, impact on views, traffic safety, interference with television/radio reception and other electronic devices, noise from operation and maintenance staff/vehicles, interference with pacemakers, adverse impact on business run from home, limited timeframe for response and inappropriate time of year for consultation. Many of the objections stated that they felt the facility could be located away from their properties at a more appropriate location.

The responses to representations provided by 3GIS were intended to offer additional information on the site selection and design process and where necessary, justification for the particular site. Daly International received many verbal and written messages of thanks for the consultation responses provided. Many of the objectors had nothing further to add or indicated that they were either satisfied with the justification and reasoning for site selection and design or that they still maintained their objection.

In conclusion it is considered that the public consultation exercise has been highly successful in terms of its objectives of providing an opportunity for the public to have a meaningful opportunity to be part of and contribute to the decision making process.

All incoming representations and 3GIS responses are now supplied to the ACT Planning and Land Authority for your consideration and assessment.