



Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

19 SEP 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2902-18 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 August 2018 regarding the proposal to install a telecommunications facility at Baratta Street, Southport (Lot 397 on SP241238).

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners about the proximity of the proposed facility to Southport State School. Please be assured that the Department of Education is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for our students, staff and the school community.

The department has a risk avoidance position in relation to electromagnetic emissions from mobile telecommunication facilities. Under the department's *Mobile Telecommunications Facilities* procedure, the department's policy is for a separation buffer of at least 200 metres to be maintained between the boundary of any education facility and a mobile telecommunications facility. The procedure can be viewed on the department's website at www.ppr.det.qld.gov.au/corp/infrastructure/facilities/Pages/Mobile-Telecommunications-Facilities.aspx.

I understand a *Material Change of Use* (impact assessable) development application was submitted to Gold Coast City Council on 30 June 2017, for the installation of the proposed telecommunications tower. This process provided an opportunity for community consultation on the proposal and the public were invited to make submissions.

While the distance from Southport State School to the proposed site of the tower is approximately 300 metres, the department made a submission indicating its objection to the installation of the tower on the basis of proximity to Southport State School.

I am advised that the Gold Coast City Council approved the application on 12 June 2018. As Minister for Education, I have no jurisdiction in relation to this decision and am unable to take any further action.

Pursuant to Standing Order 32, it would be appreciated if you could table this response to the petition on the next sitting day.

I would like to thank your petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

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Your ref: A356512