

Community Consultation Report

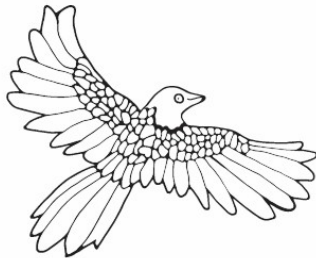
Telecommunications Leases on Council Land

May 2026



Contents

1	Summary.....	3
1.1	Background.....	3
1.2	Engagement strategies	3
2	Methodology.....	4
2.1	Communication	4
2.2	Participation	4
3	Feedback themes	5
4	Conclusion.....	6
5	Appendices.....	7
5.1	Your Say page	7
5.2	Onsite poster.....	8
5.3	Feedback	11



Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson

1 Summary

1.1 Background

Telecommunications infrastructure on Council land plays an important role in ensuring the community remains connected and has access to vital services.

At its meeting on 24 March 2026 Council resolved to commence the community consultation process to consider new Telecommunications Leases at several sites. Full details of the report to Council and minutes can be found on the Moonee Valley City Council website.

To comply with Council's statutory obligations contained in section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Policy, from 13 April to 11 May 2026, Council sought community feedback on the telecommunications leases in Walter Street Reserve, Ormond Park and Cross Key Reserve.

The specific sites that Council was seeking feedback on were:

- 110A Walter Street, Ascot Vale (Walter Street Reserve)
- 110B Walter Street, Ascot Vale (Walter Street Reserve)
- 110C Walter Street, Ascot Vale (Walter Street Reserve)
- 2A Pattinson Street, Moonee Ponds (Ormond Park)
- 1E Woodland Street, Essendon (Cross Keys Reserve)

1.2 Engagement strategies

Community members were invited to provide feedback about proposals to consider new telecommunications leases at several sites. Community members could contribute to the consultation via:

1. A dedicated Your Say webpage (Appendix 5.1), which provided community members with additional information about the proposal for each site and instructions to provide feedback via email, letter, phone call or audio recording.
2. A QR code included on onsite posters (Appendix 5.2), which linked participants to the Your Say page.
3. Letterbox drops to nearby residents
4. Email to sports club who use the facilities at each site

A total of 20 people participated in the consultation. As the consultation did not include a survey mechanism for respondents to identify their proximity to the site,

any assessment of impacts should be informed by the content and context of the feedback received.

2 Methodology

2.1 Communication

Participants were informed about the engagement project via the onsite posters and Your Say page, social media posts, community enewsletters, a direct mailout to nearby residents, and an email to clubs who use the facilities at each site.

2.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

Consultation	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page views	196
	Page visits	162
	Unique visitors	107
Email submissions	Emails sent to Council	15
Audio recordings	SpeakPipe recordings submitted via Your Say page	5
Total respondents: 20		

3 Feedback themes

Most respondents expressed opposition to the proposals for establishing or retaining telecommunications infrastructure within Walter Street Reserve, Ascot Vale and Ormond Park, Moonee Ponds. There was no specific feedback received relating to Cross Keys Reserve, Essendon, however some objections received appeared to apply to all proposals. All responses are available verbatim in appendix 5.3.

Most feedback received related to implications for green, open space and impacts on perceptions on the area. Many respondents describe the locations of these proposals as well-used community spaces for sport, recreation, playground use and family gatherings, and argue that towers are inconsistent with the open, green and family-oriented character of these reserves. The most common concerns relate to visual impact and amenity, with towers described as intrusive, unattractive and not fitting in with the surrounding neighbourhood. A few respondents also raised concerns about proximity to homes and play spaces, potential property value impacts, noise from equipment, and the perception of health or wellbeing risks. Several respondents questioned whether the need for new or continued infrastructure in these locations has been demonstrated, particularly where residents reported they had not experienced mobile coverage issues.

There was also strong feedback received in relation to alternative locations, stronger justification and more transparent decision-making. Many respondents said they were not opposed to telecommunications infrastructure in principle but believed it should be placed in less sensitive locations, such as commercial or industrial land, transport corridors, nearby the river, or other existing infrastructure. Some also suggested consolidation of multiple towers into a single shared facility to reduce visual impact. A few respondents expressed frustration that previous relocation discussions had not resulted in an alternative outcome, and asked Council to revisit alternative-site assessments, and demonstrate why the current sites are the best or only option. At the same time, a smaller number of respondents expressed support for the towers or leases, mainly on the basis that reliable mobile coverage is an important service, that existing infrastructure is already part of the area, and that any lease arrangements should ensure Council receives an appropriate commercial return.

4 Conclusion

The consultation provided the community with an opportunity to comment on the proposed telecommunications leases at Walter Street Reserve, Ormond Park and Cross Keys Reserve. A total of 20 responses were received through email and audio recordings, alongside 196 views and 162 visits to the Your Say page.

Overall, feedback indicated a strong level of concern about the proposed leases, particularly in relation to visual amenity, impacts on valued open space, proximity to homes and play spaces, and the desire to consider alternative locations or consolidation options. A much smaller number of respondents supported the continued presence of telecommunications infrastructure, noting the importance of reliable mobile coverage and appropriate commercial return to Council.

The feedback received will help inform Council's consideration of the proposed leases and any further assessment of site suitability, community impact and alternative options.

5.2 Onsite poster



Have your say by
11 May 2026

Telecommunication leases at Walter Street Reserve

Telecommunications infrastructure on Council land plays an important role in ensuring the community remains connected and has access to vital services.

We're seeking community feedback on lease agreements for the existing telecommunications asset at Walter Street Reserve.

Have your say

- 9243 8888
- yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au





Have your
say by
11 May 2026

Telecommunication leases at Cross Keys Reserve

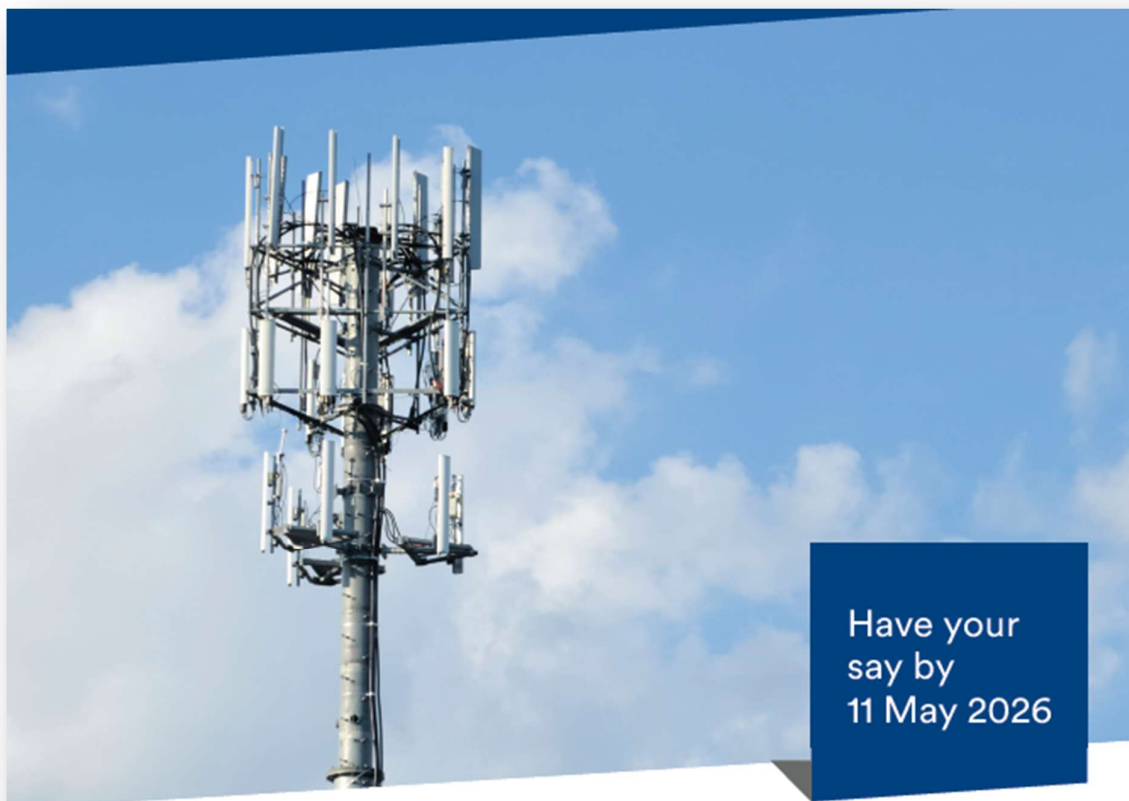
Telecommunications infrastructure on Council land plays an important role in ensuring the community remains connected and has access to vital services.

We're seeking community feedback on lease agreements for the existing telecommunications asset at Cross Keys Reserve.

Have your say

- 📞 9243 8888
- ✉️ yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- 📍 yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au





Have your
say by
11 May 2026

Telecommunication leases at Ormond Park

Telecommunications infrastructure on Council land plays an important role in ensuring the community remains connected and has access to vital services.

We're seeking community feedback on lease agreements for a new telecommunications asset at Ormond Park in Moonee Ponds.

Have your say

- 9243 8888
- yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au



5.3 Feedback

5.3.1 One

I'm writing today in general support of the telecommunication planned for Ormond Park, 2A Pattison Street Moonee Ponds. I note that the height of the tower at 30 meters will be quite imposing, with the top being a similar height to the hill at the cnr of Ormond road and Mt Alexander road! If the existing lights are 30 meters then feel free to ignore this point but my suspicion is that they are closer to 20 meters and a similar height would be appropriate for the built environment.

There are a few things of concern that are not described in the plan.

- Will the tower necessitate removal of any existing trees?
- Will the tower restrict pedestrian access to the southern end of the park? and if so how? note, I walk my dog through that area of the park.
- What commercial benefits are provided to the council as part of this lease?

5.3.2 Two

It's nice having the telecommunications in the oval because it means that the mobile data in the area is very strong.

5.3.3 Three

Hi, my family and I live on Pattison Street Moonee Ponds. I'm writing in relation the proposed telecommunication tower at Ormond Park.

I object to the proposed leasing of Ormond Park for the installation of telecommunications infrastructure.

Ormond Park is a valued public open space within a well established residential area of Moonee Ponds. The park is used daily for sport (cricket, soccer, football), recreation and community gathering, including by families and children (mine included). There is a kids playground which is busy most days particularly during weekends.

The introduction of a telecommunications tower in this location would fundamentally alter the open, green character of the park and result in an ongoing visual and amenity impact experienced by park users and surrounding residents (including myself). This is so, even if positioned in the southern location and given its significant height of 30 metres.

I understand Victorian planning decisions recognise public open space and residential interfaces as sensitive land uses where telecommunications facilities must be carefully sited and designed to minimise amenity impacts. Visual dominance, loss of openness and impact on nearby dwellings and public space are all legitimate planning considerations that the council should consider. These impacts are amplified in a park setting due to the absence of built form and the expectation of visual openness.

Ormond Park is located in an established suburb, not a growth area undergoing transition. There is no planning justification for imposing permanent, visually intrusive infrastructure within this park when less sensitive alternatives may be available. I'm

unsure if Council has demonstrated that this site represents the least impact option, nor that alternative locations such as commercial land, transport corridors, existing infrastructure or co location opportunities have been genuinely exhausted.

While the need for improved teleco coverage is acknowledged in principle, that need does not justify the use of valued public open space where the amenity impacts are significant and ongoing. I respectfully request that Council not proceed with leasing Ormond Park for teleco infrastructure.

5.3.4 Four

I strongly object to the renewal of these telecommunication leases.

These facilities were originally opposed, and they were only ever accepted as an interim measure. That interim arrangement has now continued for around a decade. Just because this infrastructure has been in place for years does not mean it should continue indefinitely or be renewed automatically. Council should not treat a temporary compromise as a permanent outcome.

If telecommunications infrastructure is required, it should be placed in a more appropriate location, such as on the golf course or in another less sensitive area, rather than directly in front of people's homes. The current siting creates an unnecessary visual intrusion and places a commercial structure in a residential setting where it does not belong.

I am also concerned about the potential health impacts, particularly the cumulative effect of having telecommunications infrastructure so close to homes. Even where it is said to comply with regulatory standards, many residents remain uneasy about long-term exposure close to where they live, sleep and raise their families. Council should take those concerns seriously and apply a precautionary approach when determining whether these leases should continue.

There is also the issue of property values and neighbourhood amenity. Infrastructure directly in front of homes can negatively affect outlook, perceived desirability and the enjoyment of residential properties. Residents should not be forced to carry the burden of a commercial decision that diminishes the liveability and character of their street.

Visible pollution and visual clutter should not be ignored. These structures can dominate the streetscape, detract from the appearance of the area and undermine the residential character of the neighbourhood. Public land and public-facing infrastructure should be managed in a way that protects local amenity, not erodes it.

For these reasons, I ask Council not to renew the leases in their current locations. If the infrastructure is to remain at all, it should be relocated to a more appropriate and less intrusive site.

Yours sincerely,

5.3.5 Five

Dear Sir/ Madam/ Other

I wish to formally object to the leases being renewed for all Telecom Towers at Walter Street Oval and wetlands.

The amenity of the area has changed since the towers were erected and now includes high density housing.

There is a high proportion of young families with school aged children and the oval is always busy with people exercising, football and cricket matches being played, children bike riding and not to mention 2 playgrounds both within 150 metres of the towers.

I previously objected with other residents to the leases being renewed, but was fed the lie that the towers were unable to be relocated towards the river because the ground there is too unstable.

This is a falsehood as there are numerous electricity pylons, 2 large wire barriers, 2 complete new buildings (soccer clubhouse and netball building).

I would also like to add in that mobile towers are mounted on the high tension pylons further along the river opposite Poyntons Nursery.

In light of this , I would like the council to rescind the lease agreements with the Telcos away from Walter St. They can relocate towards the river and still collect a rental return. Our park will retain some valuable land and our children will have a safer environment to enjoy.

Much appreciated

5.3.6 Six

Hi. I have no objections to the continued lease of the telecommunication towers at the Walter Street Reserve. As it is, I think that there are not full signal strength with my Telco. For example, I noticed that on Telstra plan, I'm not getting the full signal bar even though there is a tower reportedly from Telstra nearby to me. So yes, to reiterate, I am in full support of the continued leasing of the land for the telecommunication towers because I do not see any alternative not to have them. Thank you.

5.3.7 Seven

Hi

We received the flyer in the letter box (we are in Gillespie Avenue) and would like to strongly approve that these remain in place.

I was part of the working group several years ago, where some residents had strong objections to these and spread a disinformation campaign as well i.e. kids door knocking saying they cause cancer and make you sick.

Was more around that objecting residents were ""promised"" by Mirvac at the time that these were going to be removed, notwithstanding these towers were there for several years already and was a known quantity.

Also, there is a false equivalence i.e. there are light towers which are unattractive that have been upgraded and a lack of understanding on how phone signals work / laws of physics if you remove them or move it close to the river etc.

Obviously, would be a different proposition if it was a new tower being constructed of course.

Due to higher population density in the area, number of 4G/5G devices each resident has, only makes this more important as a critical service.

That being said, the leases should also reflect current commercial market rates and the terms / conditions and the towers and supporting rooms to and be of the same size and land footprint - no ""freebies"" for a valuable council land asset such as this.

5.3.8 Eight

Dear Property Management Team,

Thank you for the letter dated 13 April 2026 inviting feedback on the three proposed new telecommunications leases at Walter Street Reserve (Amplitel, Optus Mobile and Indara).

I appreciate the opportunity to respond and respectfully object to the proposal to enter into new lease agreements for the current Walter Street Reserve locations. I am not opposed to telecommunications infrastructure in principle; connectivity is important, but I do not believe the current sites are appropriate, and I would like to suggest some constructive alternatives for Council to consider.

Walter Street Reserve is a much-loved, heavily used community park. It contains two separate children's playgrounds, one accessed from Walter Street and the other from Sanctuary Way/Aspect Avenue, as well as open space used for junior sport, Auskick, birthday gatherings, and daily walking. The reserve is bordered on all sides by low-density residential housing, and the three tower sites sit directly adjacent to family homes and the playgrounds.

The letter notes that the facilities have occupied Council land 'in an overholding capacity' for some time. With respect, the fact that the towers have been there historically is not, by itself, a reason to lock them in for another lease term. The new leases represent a fresh decision point, and the community is entitled to have the siting reconsidered on its merits.

There is also a practical amenity issue I would like Council to consider. Residents living near the Walter Street Reserve sites have raised noise concerns over the years regarding the supporting infrastructure at the tower compounds, particularly the air-conditioning and cooling units that run continuously to keep the equipment cabinets within their operating range. While this is not a constant, around-the-clock problem, there have been periods over the years where the noise from this plant has been intrusive for nearby homes, especially at night and during warmer months when the units are working harder.

For a piece of infrastructure located within metres of bedrooms and backyards, even intermittent low-frequency mechanical noise is a real amenity issue. New long-term leases should not be signed without a clear, enforceable answer to what acoustic standards the three operators will be required to meet, how compliance will be monitored, and what remedies are available to residents if the noise re-emerges. In my view, these concerns are far better resolved by relocating the infrastructure to a non-residential site than by trying to acoustically treat three separate compounds in the middle of a suburban park.

In addition, after speaking with a number of local real estate agents, I am consistently told that proximity to telecommunications towers affects buyer perception and, in turn, the value and saleability of nearby homes. This is not merely anecdotal. A peer-reviewed study of two Brisbane suburbs (Rajapaksa et al., Environmental Economics and Policy Studies, 2018) found that proximity to mobile phone towers negatively affects house values, with the effect diminishing as distance increases. Similar findings have been reported in New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States, with estimated price impacts ranging from roughly 2–3% on average to around 10% for homes within clear view of a tower.

It is also worth noting that the NSW Valuer-General's office publishes specific guidance to valuers on valuing land used for a telecommunication tower (updated June 2024), which demonstrates that Australian statutory valuers already treat the presence of a tower as a relevant factor in land value. In other words, the devaluation concern is not fringe; it is recognised in Australian valuation practice. Also, it is noted in recent Industry reporting (Mordor Intelligence, Jan 2026) that recent tower proposals in Australian municipalities (St Helens, Ocean Reef) have been rejected on amenity grounds, with TowerCos now "proposing stealth designs and rooftop substitutions" as alternatives. This shows the industry itself is accepting that non-residential alternatives are viable.

Renewing three leases in the middle of a residential reserve effectively entrenches that impact on surrounding homeowners for another decade or more. I would ask Council to weigh that real and measurable cost to residents against the commercial convenience of simply continuing the existing arrangements.

Moonee Valley is fortunate to have a number of sites within close range of Walter Street Reserve that could host this infrastructure with far less impact on homes, children and open space. For instance, the Melbourne Showgrounds precinct, Flemington Racecourse, and the commercial and light-industrial strips along Maribyrnong Road, Racecourse Road, and Epsom Road, as well as rooftop, high-tension power pylons along the river, and pole-mounted installations on commercial buildings, are common industry practices and significantly reduce residential exposure.

In each case, the carriers retain coverage across Ascot Vale and the surrounding suburbs, but the towers are moved away from family homes, play equipment and open green space.

I respectfully ask that Council:

- decline to enter new long-term leases for the three current Walter Street Reserve sites in their present form;
- require Amplitel, Optus Mobile and Indara to submit a genuine alternative-sites assessment that considers the non-residential locations before any new lease is executed; and
- As part of the community engagement process under section 115, publish the alternatives assessment so that residents can see the trade-offs being weighed.

I recognise that coverage continuity matters to the carriers, and I am not asking for the towers to simply disappear overnight. A staged relocation to a more appropriate site with a reasonable transition timeline is a fair outcome for both the community and the providers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this consultation. I would be grateful if this submission could be formally recorded as part of the YourSay feedback for the Walter Street Telecommunications Leases project.

5.3.9 Nine

I am writing as a long-time resident of Ascot Vale to register my objection to Council entering into new leases for the three telecommunications sites at Walter Street Reserve.

Walter Street Reserve is, quite simply, one of the best small reserves in Moonee Valley. Over the years I have watched it grow into something genuinely special, the ponds, the birdlife, the oval, the two playgrounds, the families who gather there on weekends. It is the kind of local open space that councils spend a lot of money trying to create elsewhere, and Ascot Vale is lucky to have it.

Three telecommunications compounds in the middle of that reserve are at odds with what the space has become. They were installed more than a decade ago, when the reserve was less developed and the surrounding streets were different. The area has changed; the towers haven't. Signing new long-term leases now effectively decides the next ten-plus years of the reserve's character on the basis of a decision made in very different circumstances.

I would ask the Council to recognise that 'the towers have always been there' is not the same as 'the towers belong there'. The consultation under section 115 is precisely the point at which that question is meant to be asked, and I am grateful Council is asking it.

A few practical points I would like Council to weigh:

- The three compounds sit within metres of family homes and two children's playgrounds. That is not a combination Council would approve if it were proposed from scratch today, and it should not be locked in for another decade simply because it is the status quo.
- The supporting equipment is not silent. The cooling plant running on the compounds has, at various times over the years, been audible from nearby homes. Any new lease needs to come with enforceable noise standards, not a handshake.
- The visual impact on the reserve itself is significant. Three separate fenced compounds with antennas, cabinets and access tracks take up space and degrade the feel of what is otherwise a green, family-oriented park.

Ascot Vale is not short of alternative sites, including improving the mobile phone coverage on Union road near the main shopping strip.

I am asking Council not to quietly entrench a poor siting decision from a decade ago by signing three new leases without genuinely testing whether better locations are available. The carriers will find somewhere to put their equipment, that is their business. Council's job, in this process, is to represent the people who live around the reserve.

Please record this submission as part of the YourSay feedback for the Walter Street Telecommunications Leases project, and please take the community's concerns into account before any new lease is executed.

5.3.10 Ten

"We are writing regarding the proposed telecommunications tower planned near [REDACTED] Pattison St, Moonee Ponds. As a resident in the area, myself and my family would like to raise a number of concerns and formally reject the installation of this proposed tower for the below reasons;

- Impact on views and property:

The proposed tower would block scenic views in our neighbourhood and affect the overall look of the area. Many properties have city views, which this proposed tower would now impede on and obscure.

This also has the likely potential to lower property values, as people looking to buy may be discouraged by a tower so close to homes.

With other towers already in the area, adding another would further impact the aesthetics and enjoyment of our neighbourhood.

- Mobile coverage and necessity:

There is currently no formal indication showing gaps in mobile coverage in our area. Both my partner and I use multiple networks, including Optus, and we have never experienced coverage issues within our home or nearby streets. This raises questions about the necessity of building another tower in a residential area.

- Health concerns:

Even though regulations govern radiation exposure, many community members remain concerned about the potential health effects of having a 5G tower so close to homes, schools, and childcare facilities. With an infant child myself and many children in the area the need for additional unnecessary mobile coverage does not out-way health and wellbeing.

- Community and environment:

Construction and operation could disturb local wildlife and vegetation. The tower itself would create noise and visual disruption, reducing the overall enjoyment of the neighbourhood and park.

- Alternative locations:

We suggest the council explore alternative sites, such as industrial or commercial areas, where the tower would have minimal impact on residents and the community.

- Community opposition:

There is strong local concern regarding the placement of this tower in a residential area. Many neighbours are worried about visual impact, property values, and general wellbeing.

We respectfully ask the council to carefully consider these points before approving the project.

The wellbeing of the neighbourhood, the property value of residents homes, the lack of demonstrated coverage gaps, and impact to users and visitors of the green open spaces are all important factors that should be taken into account.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

5.3.11 Eleven

We formally object to the renewal of all telecommunications tower leases at Walter Street Oval and the surrounding wetlands.

Since these towers were originally installed, the character of the area has changed significantly. It is now a high-density residential precinct, home to a large number of young families and school-aged children. The oval is heavily used on a daily basis for community activities, including organised football and cricket matches, general exercise, and children's recreation. In addition, two playgrounds are located within 150 metres of the towers, further increasing the level of use and exposure.

Given these changed circumstances, the continued presence of telecommunications infrastructure in this location is no longer appropriate. We strongly urge the Council to rescind the existing lease agreements and relocate the towers away from Walter Street Oval. Positioning them closer to the river would allow the Council to retain rental income while preserving valuable open space and ensuring a safer, more suitable environment for community use—particularly for children.

5.3.12 Twelve

I am writing to formally object to the proposed renewal of telecommunications leases at Walter Reserve.

Over time, the surrounding area has transitioned significantly and is now predominantly residential. What may once have been an appropriate location for telecommunications infrastructure is no longer suitable in its current context. The towers have become a visual eyesore within a residential setting and detract from the character and amenity of the neighbourhood. This has a direct and negative impact on the enjoyment of nearby properties and raises legitimate concerns about the potential effect on property values.

In addition to aesthetic concerns, there remains ongoing unease within the community regarding potential health impacts associated with telecommunications infrastructure, particularly given the proximity to homes. While standards may exist, the perception and concern among residents should not be dismissed and must be factored into planning decisions.

Given these issues, I strongly urge Council to reconsider the renewal of these leases at Walter Reserve and instead explore more appropriate alternative locations. One such option would be Farbairn Reserve, which is situated further away from dense residential areas and would minimise both visual and community impact while still serving infrastructure needs.

Council has a responsibility to ensure that land use decisions reflect the evolving nature of our community and prioritise the wellbeing and amenity of residents. Retaining these towers in a now heavily residential area does not align with that responsibility.

I respectfully request that Council take these concerns into account and decline the lease renewal in favour of identifying a more suitable location."

5.3.13 Thirteen

Hi there. I live in [REDACTED] Aspect Avenue [REDACTED] telecommunications tower that is proposed for a new lease - I would just like to say that the tower is an eyesore and stops people from having a nice view of the park in an otherwise beautiful area. Our next door neighbour said when they initially bought into the development when it was first being built a while ago that they have been promised that this tower would be removed by now. So if that's the case it seems fair that they would remove it. I'm not exactly sure where he got that information but he was pretty sure of himself. But yep, we'd just like to say my peace that the tower is an eyesore and the neighbourhood would look much better without it. Thank you.

5.3.14 Fourteen

We received a letter in relation to consultation on feedback for the Walter Street Reserve Telecommunications towers.

Are you able to confirm if the Indara - 110C Walter Street tower has had an Electro Magnetic Energy report completed (EME)?

As the Indara tower is central to the Walter Street reserve has there been any option to consolidate the towers to a single shared tower to reduce the visual impact of multiple towers in the area?

As part of the renewal will any independent testing be completed for house holds located nearby the towers to ensure they are not experiencing radio interference from the towers?

5.3.15 Fifteen

I object to these towers being put up in Ascot Vale, especially in parks where kids and sportsmen participate in recreation.

Have never had any problems with reception in Ascot Vale or Moonee Ponds, haven't heard any complaints of this either.

These towers are ugly, and will certainly undermine and devalue a beautiful area.

5.3.16 Sixteen

Hi I just have some feedback about this Optus tower at Ormond Park. I'm strongly against this project because Optus has very bad reputation, bad technology and unreliable services. And this kind of old technology will have some very high frequency, high power radiation which harm all the kids playing at the playground and all the residents around this area. It is totally unnecessary. This kind of technology can be replaced by new technology like Starlink and it's totally rubbish to build such a ugly tower in this beautiful park. Even if you want to build, build far away from the North carpark there. Don't just put a ugly tower in front of the freeway entrance. It's totally unnecessary and not reliable at all. It also.

5.3.17 Seventeen

I suppose the placement of the telecommunications tower in Ormond Park is reasonable. I would like the Council to use the rent that they get from that to construct a

noise wall alongside Ormond Park against the tollway as the noise encroaches upon residents significantly. So if you're going to earn money out of it that's what I'd want you to spend it on. Thank you.

5.3.18 Eighteen

Wouldn't it be more appropriate to consider locating this tower further away from residential and public recreation areas?

An alternative location across the freeway near Moonee Ponds Creek may provide a more suitable outcome, as it would reduce the visual and environmental impact on nearby residents and the wider community who regularly utilise Ormond Park for recreation and open space activities.

I respectfully ask that Council carefully consider the potential impact on the local community and explore alternative placement options that achieve the required infrastructure outcome while minimising disruption to this valued public area.

Hopefully this can be of assistance with further review and consultation

5.3.19 Nineteen

I am writing to formally express my strong objection to the proposed telecommunication leases at the Walter Street Reserve sites.

This is reinforced by a petition submitted in 2019 containing over 200 signatures from local residents opposing the leases, which was acknowledged by Council. This position was further supported by local MP Danny Pearson, who previously raised concerns with Council on behalf of the community. For your reference, I have attached the petition and supporting correspondence.

Residents in the area, including myself, have raised concerns for many years regarding the towers being located in their current position and would like to see them relocated. These towers are intrusive structures that significantly detract from the character and amenity of the area. They represent a visual eyesore and pose potential health and wellbeing concerns for local families. In particular, the Optus/Indara tower is situated in immediate proximity to homes, where noise from its cooling systems and wind interaction with the structure is audible 24/7, materially impacting the amenity of properties along Aspect Avenue, diminishing the quiet enjoyment for residents.

It is not surprising that this remains an ongoing concern for local residents, given that Walter Reserve and the surrounding area is widely used for social and sporting activities throughout the year and enjoyed by a thriving community with many young families.

Council's past efforts to work collaboratively with residents to identify a suitable relocation solution have been extremely disappointing. I was involved with a working group that was established in 2020 to explore and assess alternative options; however, after seven meetings over a two-year period, the group was discontinued without any notification or explanation to its participants. Council ceased all communication despite my repeated efforts to re-establish engagement. After being referred between multiple staff members, my enquiries ultimately went unanswered. While the meetings held were at times productive, they lacked credible and appropriate representation. In particular, telecommunications providers were not involved, and the independent consultant

engaged by Council presented a perceived conflict of interest, undermining confidence in the integrity of the process.

Furthermore several alternative solutions proposed throughout the process were dismissed without clear or adequate justification, despite many being proven and successfully implemented elsewhere. These included utilising existing power pylons along the river and a sports lighting pole solution at Walter Street Reserve. The option to consolidate the two towers into a single structure was also rejected, despite the obvious benefit of reducing visual and community impact if relocation is not feasible. There was a lack of consideration given to combining the towers on Walter Reserve, including the replacement or extension of existing structures, despite a strong precedent for such outcomes established by VCAT in numerous appeals on similar matters. Most notably, a viable site within Fairbairn Park near the maintenance depot was initially assessed, accepted, and agreed upon by both Council and telecommunications providers, only to be later withdrawn without reasonable justification. This lack of consistency in decision-making raises concerns regarding the evaluation process and its outcomes. For reference, please see the attached details relating to the maintenance depot relocation site and associated decision from past Council reports.

It is also concerning that, while identifying a suitable relocation site within Fairbairn Park has been presented as challenging, a new standalone telecommunications tower is being proposed at Ormond Park to address a separate coverage issue. This apparent inconsistency raises further questions regarding Council's approach and decision-making process. Furthermore, the relocation of telecommunications infrastructure is not uncommon in the context of new developments. Such relocations are both feasible and have been successfully undertaken at other locations, demonstrating that alternative outcomes are achievable with appropriate planning and coordination.

Serious concerns regarding Council's decision-making and governance in relation to this matter have been put to Council. In particular, the approval of residential developments in close proximity to existing telecommunications towers raises important questions. It is reasonable to expect that Council would not support the construction of a new tower immediately adjacent to established residential properties. Given this, it is unclear why the same level of consideration was not applied when approving new housing developments near existing tower infrastructure. This apparent inconsistency warrants further explanation, as it raises concerns about planning transparency, consistency, and the protection of community interests.

It should also be noted that many property buyers at the time were misled into believing that these towers were to be relocated by Council and the developer (Mirvac) prior to the Enclave development; however, this has proven to be untrue and buyers were deceived for commercial interests.

Finally, I take this opportunity to call on Council to make genuine and renewed efforts to actively engage with residents to resolve this matter and deliver a fair and balanced outcome for the community. In particular, the Working Group should be reinstated with appropriate representation from all key stakeholders, including telecommunications providers. The process must adopt a genuinely collaborative, transparent, and accountable approach to identifying a viable relocation solution. All previously considered and supported options should be revisited, alongside any new alternatives, with clear and documented reasoning provided for any decisions made.

Most importantly, the outcome must not be left to telecommunications providers to determine. Their preference to maintain the status quo through lease renewals is obvious however this does not reflect the broader interests of the community. Council must take decisive leadership of this matter to ensure the process is properly governed and that the final outcome is driven by planning merit, community impact, and long-term public interest—not solely by commercial considerations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to your response and further engagement on this matter.

5.3.20 Twenty

I am writing to formally object to the proposed telecommunications lease renewals at Walter Street Reserve.

This concern reflects the long-standing position of many residents and is supported by a 2019 petition containing over 200 signatures, as well as correspondence from local MP Danny Pearson.

Residents have consistently raised concerns about the location and impact of the towers, particularly their visual intrusion, proximity to homes, and ongoing noise impacts from cooling systems and wind interaction. These issues significantly affect the amenity of nearby properties, especially along Aspect Avenue, and are inconsistent with the community-focused nature of Walter Reserve and the surrounding recreational areas.

I was also involved in the Council working group established in 2020 to explore relocation options. Despite several meetings over two years, the process ended without explanation or further communication. Key stakeholders, including telecommunications providers, were not properly represented, and several viable alternatives were dismissed without adequate justification. These included the use of power pylons, sports lighting poles, consolidation into a single tower, and a previously supported relocation option near the Fairbairn Park maintenance depot.

It is concerning that Council has suggested relocation within Fairbairn Park is unworkable, while simultaneously proposing a new standalone telecommunications tower at Ormond Park for a separate coverage issue. This inconsistency raises questions regarding the Council's planning approach and decision-making process.

There are also broader concerns regarding planning transparency, particularly regarding residential developments approved in proximity to existing tower infrastructure. Many buyers were led to believe the towers would eventually be relocated prior to the Enclave development, which has not occurred.

I urge Council to recommence genuine engagement with residents and reinstate the Working Group with appropriate representation from all stakeholders, including telecommunications providers. All relocation and consolidation options should be reconsidered through a transparent and accountable process focused on community impact and long-term public interest, rather than maintaining the status quo for commercial convenience.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to your response and further engagement on this matter.

Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471	Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474	Español	Spanish	9932 1477
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472	Italiano	Italian	9932 1475	Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473	Somali	Somali	9932 1476	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480

National Relay Service 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au

Please contact us if you need this information in a different format.

