



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard 13 April 2000

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER, CAMP HILL

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): The people of Camp Hill in my electorate are engaged in a struggle to preserve their lifestyle—a lifestyle that they and many other Queenslanders have enjoyed for many years. I refer to the construction of a telecommunications facility by the provider company OneTel. Last Saturday 82 year old Mrs Stevenson, who has lived in her home for 74 years, stood arms linked on a peaceful picket line to protest against this construction as a tower loaded on the back of a large truck edged towards her. She said that she had never done anything like this in her life and did not expect to do it at this stage of her life.

What has brought Mrs Stevenson and her fellow elderly and younger citizens on the streets to protest? At 520 Old Cleveland Road, Camp Hill, a World War II vintage shop has been turned into a telecommunications facility. While the Federal law governing these facilities allows for a low-impact facility at a three metre height, the company has made a farce of this legislation. What they have done is constructed an entirely steel structure with concrete foundations under the shop such that it is free standing, independent of the shop. The shop could be removed and the tower would still stand. It leaves the transmission facilities of this tower just metres from a resident's bedroom.

I am not getting bogged down in the scientific debate about the health effects of these towers. The jury is still out, but our residents will not be used as guinea pigs. I call for a bipartisan approach to this issue and a summit of all interested authorities to confront this growing blight on our suburbs. The roll-out of the new technology requires tighter grids. This will lead to more penetration into our suburbs. More providers are carrying out this process in order to compete with the lucrative networks instead of providing services in the bush. The Federal legislation is inadequate. The cavalier and cowboy attitude of this company sees no end. It is the height of corporate arrogance when we see the commencement of a new facility in the electorate that is contrary to city council building guidelines and regulations.

Time expired.
