

22.11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

19/01/2006
VC37

This policy applies to all land.

22.11-1 Policy basis

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The telecommunications industry has experienced significant advances in technology over the last decade. New technology has facilitated the introduction of the Internet, competition in telecommunications, home-based businesses and the like. These developments have also assisted in breaking down global barriers to business and communications.

Whilst bringing many benefits to communities such as Boroondara, these advances have also caused conflict in the community, primarily associated with the way these services are delivered.

The City of Boroondara Municipal Strategic Statement recognises the need to manage the location of new telecommunications facilities to recognise and be sensitive to the health and safety of local communities, and the high environmental and visual amenity of the City. The City of Boroondara does not support the overhead location of new telecommunications cabling.

The City of Boroondara is committed to meaningful consultation between it, the telecommunication carriers and local communities in the identification of appropriate locations for telecommunications facilities prior to the lodgement of planning permit applications for such facilities.

22.11-2 Objectives

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- To minimise the visual impact of infrastructure associated with the provision of telecommunications services.
- To minimise any health risks associated with the provision of telecommunications services.
- To facilitate the provision of efficient, modern and cost effective telecommunications services to the ratepayers of the City of Boroondara.

22.11-3 Policy

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It is policy that:

- The opportunities created by advancements in the development of telecommunications infrastructure and services be provided in a manner that is sensitive to the health and safety of the local community and the high environmental amenity of the municipality.
- New telecommunications cabling be provided underground.
- Telecommunications facilities be provided in the following order of preference:
 - The utilisation of existing structures.
 - Co-location with existing telecommunications infrastructure.
 - New facilities.
- The locational criteria in order of preference are:
 - Commercial/business and industrial zones.
 - Other non-residential zones.

- Residential zones, heritage areas, public use zones and other environmentally sensitive areas only be considered for the location of facilities where the siting of that facility is likely to better achieve the objectives of this policy.
- The location and design of telecommunications facilities minimise visual impacts generally, and particularly on the skyline.

22.11-4

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Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority will consider whether the telecommunications carrier has undertaken meaningful consultation with Council and local communities with the view to identifying appropriate locations for any given telecommunications facility prior to the lodgement of a planning permit application for a facility in that particular location.

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Policy reference

Telecommunications Facilities Policy, City of Boroondara, 1999