

MCF Operational Bulletin Summer 2008/2009 Edition

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The Mobile Carriers Forum (MCF) Operational Bulletin provides a snapshot of the latest news and events for the mobile network carriers, their contractors and consultants.

Christmas / New Year ACIF Code Guidance

The Christmas and New Year holiday period is fast approaching and in accordance with ACMA Operational Practice Guidance, the following dates have been determined in relation to ACIF consultation processes during this period. Please ensure that these guidelines are adhered to when planning and conducting consultations during the months of December 2008 and January 2009.

If you have any queries, please email helen.greenwood@amta.org.au

Council Comments

- Last day planners can send correspondence to Council is Friday 19th December 2008.
- "Non Business days" are from Monday 22nd Dec 2008 to Friday 2nd Jan 2009 inclusive.
- 5 days + 2 clear days for postage means Council will have until 5pm Tuesday 13th January 2009 to comment.
- Carriers to advise council additional time may be available on request.

Community Comments

- Last day planners can send correspondence to Community members is Wednesday 17th December 2008.
- "Non Business days" are from Thursday 18th Dec 2008 to Wednesday 7th Jan 2009 inclusive.
- 10 days + 2 clear days for postage means that the community members have until 5pm Friday 23rd January 2009 to comment.
- Council can of course provide further comment as well during this period.

Newspaper Ads

Ads should not be published during any of the agreed "Non Business days" for community consultation between Thursday 18th December 2008 to Wednesday 7th January 2009, inclusive.

Latest Additions to the MCF Fact Sheet Series

The MCF National Council Communications Sub-Committee has recently added a new Fact Sheet to its ever growing series. It has also updated one of its existing Fact Sheets. As always, the MCF welcomes your feedback about these Fact Sheets and if you have any ideas about the need for a new Fact Sheet, please contact helen.greenwood@amta.org.au

Regulatory Requirements

This Fact Sheet explains the layers of regulations that apply to the siting, development and operation of a network of mobile phone base stations. It explains clearly that networks are made up of different types of infrastructure and regulations are in place to ensure that they are located and constructed according to certain requirements. It details the relevant regulatory Acts and Codes pertaining to both safety and the development and operation of mobile phone base stations.

Do Exclusion Zones really work?

This Fact Sheet has just been updated following some debate in the community over the siting of mobile phone base stations and whether there should be exclusion zones within certain distances of residential areas, schools, hospitals and nursing homes. It provides comprehensive information regarding the Precautionary Approach taken by Carriers, the ACIF Code, the World Health Organisation and Information about EME levels. It also details how introducing exclusion zones could be problematic for the community.

MCF “Front Line” Training Sessions - Reminder

UK Risk Communication Consultant, Dr Ray Kemp, will be undertaking several training sessions for the MCF. Catering for those who deal regularly with community stakeholders during ACIF and DA processing, the sessions will cover some refresher training and some new initiatives such as dealing with difficult and emotional people and questions, how to prepare an effective consultation session, using consultation tools, EME updates and dealing with the media and journalists.

Attendees to the sessions have now been confirmed, registrations are closed and the sessions are scheduled as follows;

Monday 17th November	Perth
Wednesday 19th November	Melbourne
Thursday 20th November	Melbourne
Friday 21st November	Adelaide
Wednesday 26th November	Sydney
Thursday 27th November	Sydney
Friday 28th November	Woolloongabba

If registered participants have any questions please contact helen.greenwood@amta.org.au

Science & Wireless 2008

The Australian Centre for RF Bioeffects Research (ACRBR), based at Swinburne's Hawthorn campus, will hold its annual conference on 12 November with one of the lead researchers of the highly anticipated INTERPHONE project presenting at the event.

Dr Bruce Armstrong, University of Sydney public health professor and lead author of the Australian portion of the INTERPHONE project, will give an exclusive key note presentation to the ACRBR audience on the results of the INTERPHONE project.

The conference, titled “Wireless and Health – Unplugged and Uncertain?” will be the first time an INTERPHONE researcher has presented results from the project to an Australian audience.

The conference boasts an impressive panel of scientists available to discuss wireless health issues. Apart from Dr Armstrong, the panel also includes ACRBR's executive director Dr Rodney Croft, manager of the electromagnetic radiation section of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency Dr Lindsay Martin, Monash University occupational and environmental epidemiologist Dr Geza Benke, occupational and environmental medicine specialist Dr David Black and UK risk communication specialist Dr Ray Kemp. The panel discussion session provides members of the public with a unique opportunity to ask questions of the panel about any issues that may be concerning them.

The full program of events can be found at <http://www.acrbr.org.au/SW2008/program.aspx>

Contact Details for the MCF

The MCF Office is located in Melbourne at:
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If you have any questions about information contained in this Operational Bulletin please contact us on **(03) 9684-3419** or email helen.greenwood@amta.org.au.

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