



# Information for Councils about Mobile Base Station Deployment

## What is the MCF?

The [Mobile Carriers Forum](#) (MCF) is an industry group representing the mobile phone carriers deploying mobile networks in Australia. The MCF is a specialised forum that deals specifically with issues related to the deployment and operation of mobile phone networks.

The MCF is made up of a National Council who oversees and directs the work of the MCF, with representatives from each carrier. It has also formed several National Taskforces working on specific issues, such as the Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, Compliance and EME regulations and site design management. The MCF has also established state based regional forums to address region specific issues and implement the MCF's best practice policies at a local level.

## What has changed?

In December 2018 [C564:2018 The Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code](#) was updated. There were a few changes which impact the way Carriers engage with Councils. Most notable are:

- Section 5.2 - A new consultation section dedicated to Small Cells tailored to reflect the small scale and low visual impact of these facilities. Council will receive notification of the planned installations and an invitation to comment on the proposal.
- Clarifications around delivery timeframes for postage etc.
- Improved clarity around specific site position.
- Provision for email as a delivery method.
- Section 7 (Upgrades) – Provisions for alternatives to newspaper advertising.
- Updated correspondence templates.
- Guidance documents now stored on Communications Alliance Ltd [website](#).

## Small Cells

Depending on your location, you may have seen the introduction of Small Cells. Small Cells are physically small radio base stations that complement the macro network to improve coverage, add capacity, and support new services & user experiences. You can find out more about Small Cells [here](#) (ACMA – A Guide to Small Cells).

## 5G

5G is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of mobile networks, a significant evolution of today's 4G LTE networks. 5G is being designed to meet the very large growth in data and connectivity of today's modern society, the internet of things, and tomorrow's innovations. 5G will initially operate in conjunction with existing 4G networks before evolving to a fully standalone network. See further details [here](#). A report on the economic benefits of 5G can be found [here](#)

## EME

Electromagnetic Energy (EME) regulations in Australia are managed by [ARPANSA](#).

AMTA & the MCF acknowledge that some members of the community may be concerned about EME and offers the following website of user friendly information [EMF Explained](#).

Information on the Australian Standards [\(RPS3\)](#) can be obtained from [ARPANSA](#) who also offer a regular [Talk to a Scientist](#) service.

## RFNSA

The Radio Frequency National Site Archive is a publicly accessible database of all Australian mobile phone base stations. It can be accessed at [www.rfnsa.com.au](#) The database provides information on existing and planned base stations. Upgraded search options and a new subscription service provide email notification of proposed works to a specific facility or a defined post code.

## CARRIER CONTACTS

Carriers remain committed to working with local government on the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure. If you have any questions that you would prefer to direct specifically to the Carrier, they can be contacted at:

Optus: [Communityrelations@optus.com.au](mailto:Communityrelations@optus.com.au)

Telstra: [basestation.enquiries@team.telstra.com](mailto:basestation.enquiries@team.telstra.com)

Vodafone: [Community.relations@vodafone.com.au](mailto:Community.relations@vodafone.com.au)