



2 Purpose and Demand

As part of the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program, Telstra will be delivering 95 new projects into regional and remote Australia. These projects include everything from new towers to improved high-speed broadband services in areas which need it the most.

The project includes significant investment in joint funding from Telstra, the Federal Government and state and local governments to help improve connectivity and communications around regional and remote Australian communities.

Nikos Katinakis, Group Executive, Networks & IT – Telstra, states:

It's partnerships like this and the significant investments we're making in regional areas that will help all Australians participate fully in the digital economy. Over the next few years, we'll be running upgrade projects as part of the RCP across the following locations:

<https://exchange.telstra.com.au/were-improving-mobile-connectivity-and-coverage/>

The site at Moonyoonooka is funded by both the Federal and State Government. The RCP funded projects summary identifies that the project at Moonyoonooka:

will deploy a new Telstra 4GX small cell base station to the Moonyoonooka area to the east of Geraldton. The new base station will provide improved mobile connectivity to support the operations of a number of businesses, including local retail, recreation facilities and horticultural farms. Increase connectivity will also enable greater access to essential services for residents and employees in the area.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/publications/round-1-regional-connectivity-program-funded-projects>

The funding application for better depth of coverage at Moonyoonooka listed the following benefits:

Economic Benefits; Benefits to local business and residents

The proposed new small cell will provide coverage to the Moonyoonooka store, Service station, Australia Post office, Geraldton Go Kart track, Geraldton City Speedway and a large vegetable-horticulture farm, as well as to providing coverage to local residences. These businesses will benefit from the new 4GX coverage with faster speeds, lower latency and increased reliability to facilitate faster business operations, including banking, stock ordering and online services.

Social Benefits; Improved digital inclusion and access to essential online services

The new 4GX coverage will improve digital inclusion to the community, and allow residents, employees and businesses to improve their standard of living and business productivity, through increased



interpersonal communication that allows contacting anyone, anywhere through voice and video calls at lower prices; enabling high speed and high-quality video streaming; access to shopping and banking apps, government services, recreation & entertainment, and social media. This will assist the community to remain socially connected in this remote rural location.

3 Site Selection Process

The site was essentially identified during the funding application process due to the presence of the Telstra exchange in Moonyoonooka which provides efficiency in the deployment of a small cell in this location due to the existing infrastructure that can be utilised; including the existing Telstra Exchange shelter and fibre and power connections. This site was assessed as an appropriate location that would provide the depth of coverage improvements required in this area as identified under the Regional Connectivity Project.

There are no tower co-location opportunities as the nearest site is 5km to the southeast. The Telstra Exchange offers the ability to co-locate Telstra's infrastructure by siting the Small Cell monopole on Telstra owned land, capitalising on the existing shelter, fibre and power provision on the site.

Telstra did review nearby pole poles on which to mount the small cell antenna, however these would only offer at the most a 10m height, and therefore coverage would not meet all the RCP objectives.

The location and height of the 20m Small Cell will provide coverage to the Moonyoonooka store, Caltex Service station, Australia Post office, Geraldton Go Kart track, Geraldton City Speedway and a large vegetable-horticulture farm, as well as to providing coverage to local residences.

The proposal will ensure the objectives of the Federal Government Regional Connectivity Program are met.

4 Proposed Development

The proposed installation of a Small Cell Telecommunications facility at 748 Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road Moonyoonooka WA 6532, is comprised of the following:

- The installation of (1) 20m Steel Monopole
- The attachment to the top of the Monopole of a mounting adapter accommodating (1) Omni Antenna, giving a total structure height of 21.9m
- The antenna will provide 4G telecommunications via LTE700 technology.
- The installation of a Telstra cabinet at the base of the monopole.
- The installation of an underground fibre route to the property boundary.



- The installation of an underground electrical cable route, approx. 8m from the existing equipment shelter to the proposed monopole.
- Ancillary items including feeders, adapters, and GPS antenna
- Utilisation of existing access conditions

Refer to Plans attached at Appendix B.

5 Subject Site and Locality

The subject site is located on the south side of Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road at Moonyoonooka. The subject land is a regular shaped land parcel of approximately 1012 square meters in size, owned by Telstra Corporation. The land is legally described as Lot 1 on Diagram 25841, Volume 1242 Folio 136.

Telstra Corporation Ltd (as the applicant) have consented to the lodgement of this planning application.

The site is located in the Rural Zone and is contained within the Special Control Area (SCA3) Geraldton Airport. The airport runway is located approx. 1.3.km south west of the proposed facility.

The proposed monopole is located within the existing Telstra Exchange compound. The compound hosts two Telstra Equipment shelters within a fenced area of approximately 48m x 20m. Also located on the site is a power pole and several communications and fibre pits. The site is predominantly cleared of vegetation and is accessed directly off Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road.

The nearest dwelling is located approximately 90m to the southeast of the facility, views of the proposed structure from the curtilage of this property will be mitigated by a tall stand of trees which will provide partial screening. There is a dwelling on the property adjoining the east and south boundary with a large setback of over 200m from the proposed monopole.

The Moonyoonooka general store, post office and service station are located on the northside of Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road in proximity to the Telstra Exchange. The land parcels extending approx. 1.6km east from the general store on the north side of Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road are predominantly utilised for covered horticultural activities. The locality also accommodates Geraldton Speedway, Go Cart Track, and several rural residential dwellings predominantly off Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road.

Refer to photos of the site and surrounds below.

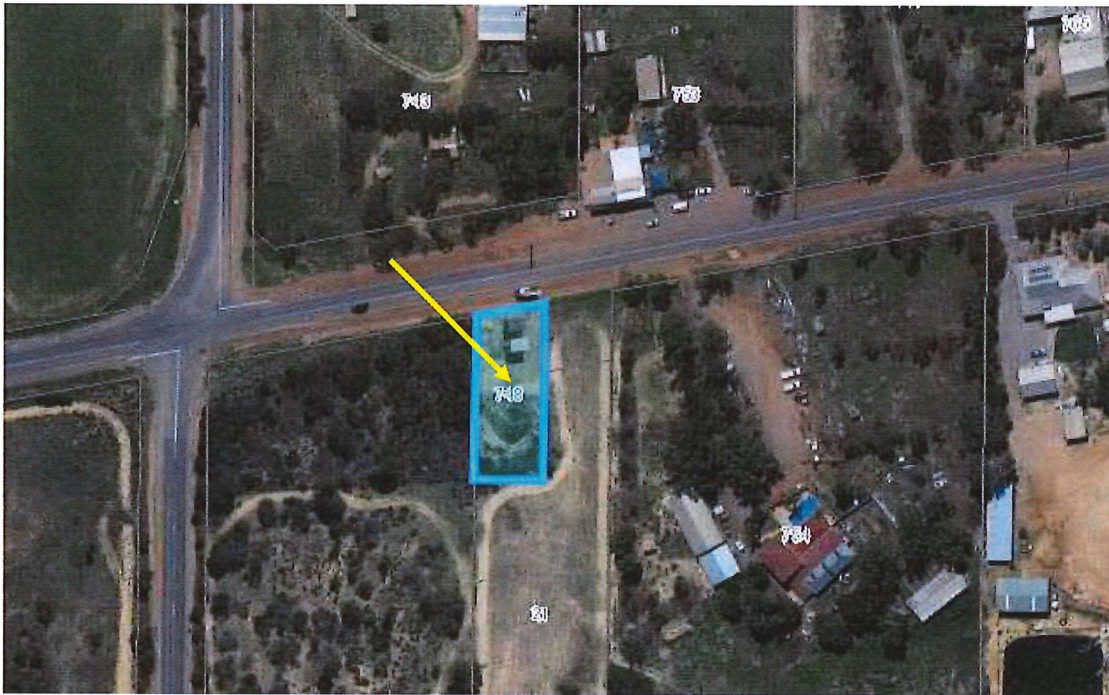


FIGURE 1 AERIAL VIEW OF SITE LOCATION



FIGURE 2 SITE ENTRY AND EXISTING EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT BUILDINGS



FIGURE 3 VIEW SHOWING FRONT BOUNDARY OF TELSTRA EXCHANGE SITE AND EXISTING FIBRE PIT (YELLOW CIRCLE)



FIGURE 4 INTERNAL VIEW OF SITE LOOKING EAST



6 Regulatory Framework and Assessment

6.1 Federal Legislation

Telecommunications Act 1997

The Telecommunications Act 1997 (the Act) came into operation on 1st July 1997. The Act provides a system for regulating telecommunications and the activities of carriers and service providers.

Under the Act, telecommunications carriers are no longer exempt from State and Territory planning laws except in three limited instances:

- There are exemptions for inspection of land, maintenance of facilities, installation of “low impact facilities”, subscriber connections and temporary defence facilities. These exemptions are detailed in the *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018* and *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Amendment Determination 2021* and these exceptions are subject to the *Telecommunications Code of Practice 1997*;
- A limited case-by-case appeals process exists to cover installation of facilities in situations of national significance; and
- There are some specific powers and immunities from the previous *Telecommunications Act 1991*.

Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018 and Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Amendment Determination 2021

The *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination* came into effect on 1st July 1997 and has been superseded by the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* and more recently by the *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) 2018, Amendment Determination 2021*.

The Determination contains a list of Telecommunications (and Radiocommunications) Facilities that the Commonwealth will continue to regulate. These are facilities that are essential to maintaining telecommunications networks and are unlikely to cause significant community disruption during their installation or operation. These facilities are therefore considered to be ‘Low-impact’ and do not require planning approval under State or territory laws.