

Mark Brown

From: Andrew Harrigan <Andrew_Harrigan@thredbo.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2015 9:33 AM
To: Mark Brown
Cc: Timothy Loder
Subject: RE: DA for Optus pole, Cat Shed [S8596]

Thanks Mark

Please see below in response to the anonymous submission objecting to the proposal.

The objection raised concerns about the visibility of the proposed tower in the “middle of the ski slopes” suggesting that it should be placed on the southern side of the river where there is already considerable development (presumably within the village). It suggests that KT’s support of the development is influenced by the amount of rent paid by Optus. The full text is below:

“while improving mobile phone reception in Thredbo is important, the placing of a 25 m high tower in the middle of the ski slopes will be an incredible eyesore. The tower should be located on the southern side of the Thredbo River where there is already considerable development with lodges and apartments. Its visual impact would be significantly reduced in that location. That side of the valley receives less snow and would be easier to access for maintenance purposes. The support of KT to the development is likely influenced by the amount of rent to be paid by Optus. Approving this development will create an ugly precedent when it comes time to deal with the inevitable application by NBN Co to erect multiple similar towers throughout Thredbo to provide satellite broadband”.

The site at the Cat Shed was chosen as it provided optimum phone and data coverage to the village and surrounds. This tower works with the existing Eagles Nest site to improve data coverage and eliminate dead or blind spots in the village. Sites within the village proper were discounted on operational and aesthetic grounds. Being on the southern aspect at mid mountain the proposed site is not visible from the Ramshead or Main Range. The tower while 25m high will at this location be somewhat obscured by both surround tree canopy and when viewed from the village will not protrude beyond surrounding ridgelines – it will not be any more visible or offensive than the existing and adjacent lift towers.

The impact on visual amenity is more fully considered and assessed in the Statement of Environmental Impacts.

KT’s support of the proposal is to ensure resort visitors, guests and passing motorist have improved phone and data coverage particularly during peak winter periods.

Kind regards

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