

Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Industry Code (C564:2011)



Project summary

This Code is a revision of the *Deployment of Mobile Phone Network Infrastructure* Industry Code (ACIF C564:2004), and has been renamed to clarify its purpose.

The Code requires mobile carriers to consult with the local community, including local councils and to adopt a precautionary approach in planning, installing and operating mobile phone base stations. The Code supplements the requirements already imposed on the industry under existing legislation.

The revised Code has been developed over the past twelve months by a Communications Alliance working committee with extensive experience including prominent community and consumer representatives, and industry and government representatives.

The Code revision has delivered ten significant improvements:

1. Renaming to clarify purpose
2. Improved consultation plans to be 'fit for purpose'
3. New community consultation web portal for new base stations proposed under this Code providing significant improvement to information, transparency and access
4. Extended timeframe for Councils to review consultation plans (5 to 10 days)
5. Extended timeframe for community consultation and feedback (10 to 15 days)
6. Additional time for community response if required (5 additional days)
7. Improved and clearer information letters signs which carriers will use when notifying and consulting with local council and the community
8. Up-to-date RF Electro-Magnetic Radiation (EMR) health and safety information, reports and signage in keeping with the current and relevant standards
9. [New Communications Alliance information portal](#)
10. Online availability of consultation reports

The Code is a vital tool in ensuring that the ever-growing demand throughout Australia for mobile phone coverage and data capability – which requires ongoing network development – is properly balanced against legitimate community desire to have a say in how networks are deployed locally. The Code provides a framework to ensure that communities are properly consulted on changes to mobile network infrastructure in their local areas.

The revised Code will be submitted in the first quarter of 2012 to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (AMCA) for registration with a commencement date of 1 July 2012.

The systems to support the significant improvements delivered by this revised Code, particularly development of the new online consultation portal along with the extensive industry training is scheduled for the first quarter of 2012 to ensure commencement by 1 July 2012.