



# Tower will go ahead despite 'typos'

By **Joanne Fosdike**

A GROUP of Murray Bridge residents is devastated by a council decision to approve a 40-metre National Broadband Network(NBN) tower to be built near their backyards but say they are not ready to end the fight.

Doyle Road resident Polly Gibbs said Monday's decision by members of Murray Bridge council's Development Assessment Panel (DAP) to approve the tower surprised her as she expected NBN Co to be told to re-submit their application because of a number of inaccuracies in its proposal.

"The proposal had a lot of flaws and they weren't asked to fix them and resubmit it," she said.

"They (DAP) can't approve something based on just saying the mistakes are just typos.

"That is opening a can of worms don't you think?

"Why should others be expected to resubmit plans which aren't accurate from now on if NBN Co don't have to?"

The "typos" included a reference to the tower being built to service the townships of Beachport and Southend and a statement the tower would

be built on a particular property, at a distance of 300 metres from Doyle Road.

"The property isn't even 300m long," Ms Gibbs said.

"I want to know why they

(council) didn't defer their decision until they (NBN Co) got their paperwork in order - it's infuriating," she said.

Ms Gibbs said the residents who lodged their objections at the DAP meeting were not opposed to fibre cables or a better internet service for the community but were opposed to the lack of consultation with residents and a service they deemed inferior, ugly and potentially unsafe.

The residents' complaints also included having the area referred to as a different name so they could be excluded from access to fibre cables.

Resident Melissa Horne said the area was being called Northern Heights by the council and NBN Co.

"Northern Heights is not a separate community to Murray Bridge," she said.

"By calling us by a different name they are reducing our numbers and by calling us different areas they can get under the threshold number of households needed for fibre installation."

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick also attended

the DAP meeting on behalf of the residents and believed many problems could have been overcome if there had been a better consultation process and a willingness to negotiate and come up with alternate solutions.

"The big question is that we could have got around a lot of the issues if the tower was moved to the east, away from the main living area," he said.

"There will be fibre up there so you would think it should be available for all the residents and it should be looked at."

Mr Pederick said he believed lack of community consultation was a state-wide issue, not just a local one.

"It is not so much a problem with the development assessment panels but maybe we need to look at the act and look at it to get more consultation happening," he said.

"There needs to be a better process and it needs to be more open - people shouldn't be finding out that something is going up in their backyard from Facebook."

Mr Pederick said while the NBN was a Federal concern he would bring the problem of a lack of consultation by the previous government to the attention of federal colleagues.



**Objection:** Polly Gibbs and residents of Doyle Road, Murray Bridge, leave disappointed from a Development Assessment Panel meeting at Murray Bridge on Monday after NBN Co was given permission to build a 40-metre tower in their backyard.