



EMP-PLA-008 | Telecommunications Infrastructure

Strategic Context

Strategic Link	Policy Objective
☑ United ☑ Safe & Healthy ☑ Beautiful & Respected ☑ Prosperous & Equitable	The objective of this Policy is to guide the planning, assessment and management of telecommunications infrastructure within the Shire by establishing clear and consistent standards that support essential telecommunications services, protect public safety, minimise adverse impacts on local amenity and character, and promote orderly and sustainable development outcomes.

Introduction

1. The Shire recognises that telecommunications infrastructure plays an important role in supporting access to essential communication services, economic activity, emergency response capability and community wellbeing. While such infrastructure is necessary to meet current and future service demands, it must be appropriately sited, designed and managed to minimise adverse impacts on public safety, visual amenity, local character and surrounding land uses. This Policy has been developed to provide clear guidance on telecommunications infrastructure within the Shire and to support consistent, transparent and appropriate decision-making in relation to its assessment and development.

Purpose

2. Adequate and reliable telecommunications infrastructure is vital for all aspects of contemporary life, from supporting the State's economy to creating and maintaining connected social networks. However, telecommunications infrastructure can have a visual impact on the amenity of an area. It is important to appropriately consider the need for effective telecommunications services in relation to the need to protect the amenity of an area. This policy outlines the requirements for providing telecommunication infrastructure within the Shire of Halls Creek.

Policy Scope

3. This Policy applies throughout the Shire in respect to all above ground telecommunications infrastructure other than those facilities that are exempted under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act 1997 (including low-impact facilities).

Policy Statement

4. This policy is to provide guidance on the assessment and installation of telecommunication infrastructure within the Shire of Halls Creek. This policy is to minimise the adverse impact of telecommunication infrastructure on the community, and the natural and built environment.



Principles Underpinning the Policy

Principle Name	Principle Definition
Improved Connectivity and Digital Inclusion	The Shire of Halls Creek recognises reliable telecommunications infrastructure as essential for community wellbeing, economic development, education, health services, and emergency response in a remote region.
Support for Economic and Service Development	Telecommunications infrastructure is encouraged where it strengthens local business activity, tourism, remote working, and access to government and commercial services.
Equitable Access Across Communities	Infrastructure planning will seek to improve service availability for all townsites, outstations, and remote communities within the Shire.
Integration with Local Planning and Land Use	Telecommunications facilities must be appropriately sited and designed to integrate with land use planning, minimise land use conflicts, and protect residential amenity.
Visual and Environmental Amenity	Infrastructure should be designed and located to minimise visual impact, environmental disturbance, and impact on culturally significant sites.
Safety and Technical Compliance	All telecommunications facilities must comply with relevant safety standards, technical requirements, and radiofrequency emission regulations.
Proportionate and Transparent Assessment	Approval processes will be clear, consistent, and proportionate to the scale and impact of proposed infrastructure
Collaboration with Service Providers	The Shire will work cooperatively with telecommunications carriers and infrastructure providers to support coordinated infrastructure delivery.
Protection of Public Assets and Land	Use of Shire land or infrastructure for telecommunications facilities will be managed to protect public assets and ensure fair community benefit.
Future-Focused and Scalable Planning	Infrastructure planning will consider future technology needs, population change, and service demand growth.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Telecommunications Infrastructure	Means premises used to accommodate the infrastructure used by or in connection with a telecommunications network including any line, equipment, apparatus, tower, antenna, tunnel, duct, hole, pit, or other structure related to the network.
Above Ground Telecommunications Infrastructure	Means any line, equipment, apparatus, tower, antenna or any other structure that is visible above ground level.
Low-Impact Facility	Means a facility used for telecommunications as described in Section 3.1- Facilities of the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities)



	Determination Act 1997 and does not require development approval from the Shire of Halls Creek.
Sensitive Land Use	Means land uses that are residential or institutional in nature, where people live or regularly spend extended periods of time. These include, but are not limited to, dwellings, short stay accommodation, hospitals, educational establishments, childcare centres, corrective institutions and places of worship. It generally excludes commercial or industrial premises. Public open space can be a sensitive land use in some circumstances depending on its intended use, for example, if it is intended that people will congregate and spend extended periods of time there.

Policy Details

5. Low-Impact Facilities

- 5.1 The installation of low-impact facilities is deemed to be a minor form of development and is exempt from the requirement to obtain planning approval.
- 5.2 Carriers should provide notification in accordance with the Telecommunications Act 1997 (or as superseded) to the Shire and the community of their intention to erect low-impact facilities. This notification should be provided in writing to the Shire.
- 5.3 The preferred location for low-impact facilities is in Rural, General Industry, or Commercial zones away from sensitive uses.

6. Development that is not Low-impact-facilities

- 6.1 All telecommunications infrastructure which does not meet the definition of "low-impact facilities" requires planning approval from the Shire of Halls Creek through a Development Application.
- 6.2 Applications submitted for non-low-impact telecommunications facilities will not be considered until all information specified in the Telecommunications Code of Practice 1997 has been submitted.

7. Development Considerations

7.1 Site Selection

- a) Telecommunications infrastructure should be co-located with existing infrastructure in the first instance where possible.
- b) Telecommunications infrastructure should be located within General Industry and Commercial zones.
- c) Telecommunications infrastructure should be located so to not adversely affect or require the removal of existing trees and vegetation. Where trees and other vegetation are proposed to be removed, they should be replanted or replaced in a location within proximity of the subject site.



7.2 Visual Amenity

- d) Telecommunications infrastructure should be located where it will not be prominently visible from significant viewing locations such as scenic routes, lookouts and recreation sites.
- e) Telecommunications infrastructure should be located to avoid detracting from a significant view of a heritage item or place, landmark, streetscape, vista or panorama, whether viewed from public or private land.
- f) Telecommunications infrastructure should be adequately setback from sensitive land uses to ensure the amenity of the areas is not unreasonably compromised.

7.3 Design

- g) The scale, materials, external colours and finishes should be sympathetic to, and blend in with the surrounding landscape.
- h) Landscaping and other methods should be used to screen and/or camouflage telecommunications infrastructure from sensitive land uses and public places, and to mitigate any potential impacts to the amenity of an area.
- i) A colours and finishes schedule to be provided as part of the Development Application.

8. Consultation

8.1 The following consultation requirements should be met prior to the Shire of Halls Creek determining a Development Application for a non-low-impact Telecommunication Facility:

- a) the proposal to be advertised in accordance with the Shire of Halls Creek Consultation Policy.
- b) owners and occupiers of all land within a radius of 200 metres of the proposed site to be consulted regarding the proposal.

Accountability

- 9. Council is responsible for adopting this policy and providing strategic oversight of telecommunications infrastructure planning and facilitation within the Shire of Halls Creek.
- 10. The CEO is accountable for ensuring effective implementation of this policy and that appropriate planning, property, and compliance processes are in place. The CEO may delegate operational responsibilities to relevant officers.
- 11. Planning officers are responsible for:
 - a) Assessing development applications for telecommunications infrastructure in accordance with this policy and the Shire's Local Planning Scheme
 - b) Coordinating statutory consultation where required
 - c) Providing planning advice to telecommunications proponents
 - d) Maintaining records of approved infrastructure installations
- 12. Engineering officers are responsible for assessing technical and servicing aspects of proposed telecommunications infrastructure, including access, power supply, and integration with existing Shire assets.
- 13. Property officers are responsible for managing requests to locate telecommunications infrastructure on Shire-owned land or assets and negotiating licence or lease arrangements where required.



14. Relevant officers are responsible for assessing environmental, cultural, and heritage impacts where applicable.
15. Compliance officers are responsible for investigating unauthorised installations or breaches of approval conditions and undertaking enforcement action where required.
16. Carriers and providers are responsible for:
 - e) Obtaining all required planning and land access approvals
 - f) Complying with relevant legislation, technical standards, and approval conditions
 - g) Maintaining infrastructure in a safe and operational condition
17. Community members are responsible for participating in consultation processes and raising concerns regarding telecommunications infrastructure through established Shire channels.

Related Documentation / Legislation

Legislation	Shire of Halls Creek Documentation
a. Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth) b. Radiocommunications Act 1992 (Cth) c. Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Regulations and Guidelines d. Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (Cth) e. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Standards f. Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 (WA) g. Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)	a. Shire of Halls Creek Strategic Community Plan b. Shire of Halls Creek Corporate Business Plan c. Shire of Halls Creek Asset Management Framework d. Shire of Halls Creek Property Management Policies e. Shire of Halls Creek Risk Management Framework

Policy Review

18. This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years from the date of endorsement, or earlier in the event of legislative change, audit findings or a resolution of Council.

Document Control

Relevant delegations	Nil		
Risk Evaluation	Moderate		
Council adoption	27 March 2025	Resolution	2025/029
Next review due	March 2029		