



Spark Telecommunication Facility – Liston Park (ABWC)

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**For the purposes of this report the Spark Telecommunications Facility at Liston Park will be referred to as ABWC.*

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information to support the retention of Sparks' Telecommunication Facility located within the grounds of Auckland Council's Liston Park and to identify risks associated with removal of the facility.

Executive Summary

- The existing telecommunications facility ABWC has been in situ without issue within the reserve for over 24 years.
- Keeping the site in its current location is Spark's preferred option. Retention of the site will provide continued quality of service to users, no disruption to mobile and digital service for surrounding residents and businesses and will avoid any community unrest involved in securing replacement sites.
- ABWC currently sits comfortably and unnoticed in its recreational surroundings and on well-established infrastructure within the reserve area.
- ABWC delivers much needed mobile and digital services to south Remuera and north Ellerslie. A sizeable and predominantly residential area that in its current location ABWC can accommodate.
- Since 2017 the site has seen an increase in data usage of over 200% and predictions show that demand for services will only grow.
- Maintaining ABWC in its current location will avoid the need to install multiple sites in residential areas to avoid the mobile coverage 'void' if Spark is requested to remove or replicate ABWC coverage area.



- To be able to maintain current and future projected mobile coverage growth it is anticipated that Spark will be required to build three (minimum) new road site sites.

These sites would be positioned near to residential properties due to the highly urban nature of the coverage area. The installation of these sites would (depending on the heights required) be considered a 'permitted activity' under National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities 2017. As such no resource consent process would be required to legally establish the site.

- Spark understands that our community neighbours want to know when we are placing telecommunication equipment near to their property. Spark with other network operators follow communication and engagement guidelines as set out under the Telecommunications Carriers Forum 2018 (TCF).
- As per TCF guidelines Spark will notify neighbours of the new infrastructure and detail reasons for relocating.
- Sparks preferred outcome is for the existing facility to remain in situ on already established infrastructure within Liston Park. Relocation of this site, to three (minimum) residential roadside sites, will lead to negative reactions and public debate from residents who may oppose establishment of the replacement sites within their neighbourhood.

Recommendation

Spark recommend that the Ōrākei Local Board retain the existing Spark Telecommunication Facility in its present location. Retention of the site will provide continued quality of service to users and no disruption to mobile service for surrounding residents and businesses.

Additionally, retention of the existing facility within Liston Park will avoid the need for Spark to install three (minimum) additional road side sites in residential areas to accommodate the coverage 'void' left if ABWC is removed.

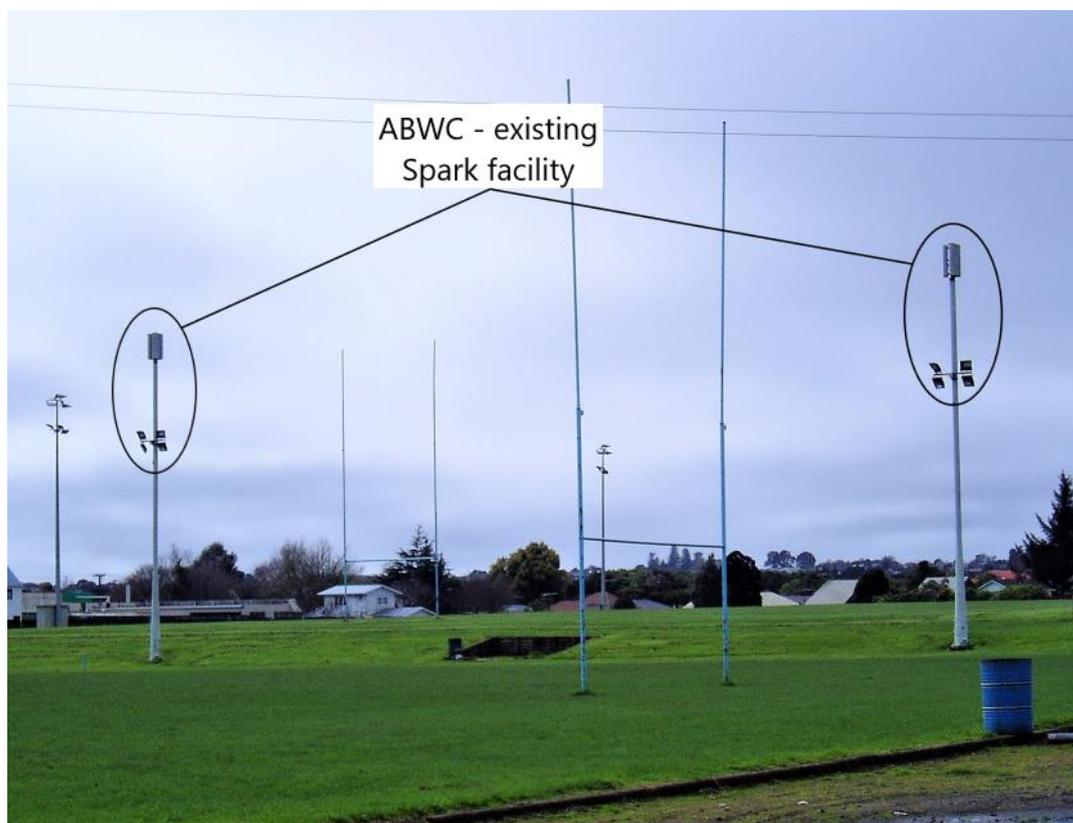
Retention will negate the need to undergo any communication or engagement process outlining reasons for removal.

Background

Spark and Auckland Council have been working together for some time to establish the future of ABWC.

As part of Auckland Council's plans to investigate the possibility of redeveloping the sports ground at Liston Park, Panuku Development, Auckland has asked Spark to present a report providing information as to the importance of the telecommunications facility within Liston Park.

ABWC comprises of two unobtrusive 15.4m floodlight poles, that each house a single cluster of three antennas and a 3m outdoor equipment shelter. The equipment is located centrally between two existing rugby fields. The facility is serviced by power and telecommunication lines that are located underground from Michaels Avenue some 140m away from the site.

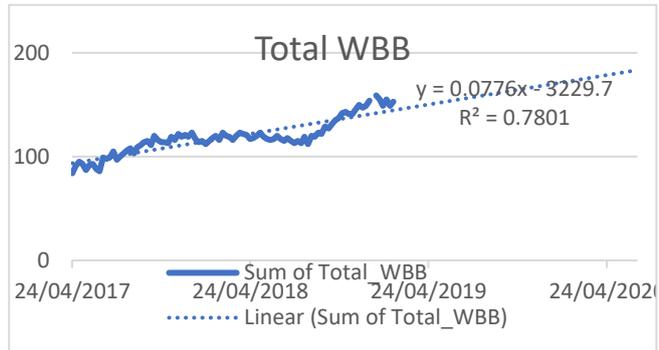


Current Use & Future Projections

ABWC has been in situ in Liston Park for 24 years. The facility provides much needed mobile services to thousands of residential and business users allowing them to connect to digital services



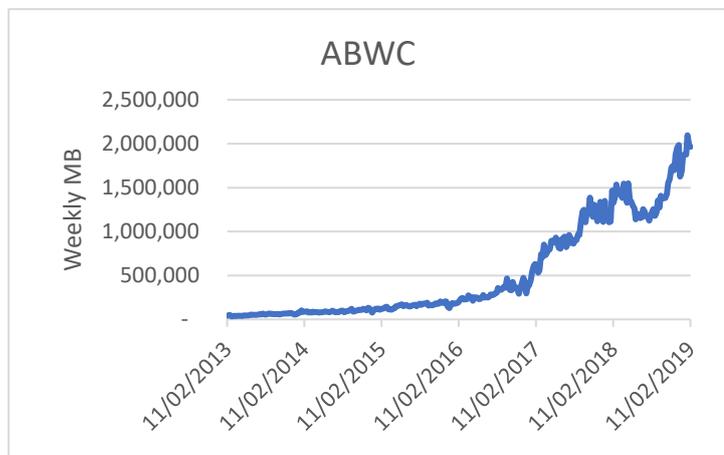
The current site provides valuable services to the surrounding area including broadband, cell phone coverage and data. ABWC currently has over 150 residential and commercial broadband users. Based on current projections, Spark are forecasting a 20% to 25% increase in broadband users year on year. By the end of June 2020 ABWC is projected to have over 190 broadband users.



Date	Weekly Traffic MB	Growth rate vs today
11/02/2019	1,964,465	0%
12/02/2018	1,329,191	48%
13/02/2017	621,690	216%
15/02/2016	213,538	820%
16/02/2015	121,768	1513%
17/02/2014	87,371	2148%

This site's usage has increased by 2148% since February 2014. This shows a growing need for Telecommunication Facilities in the area. The below diagram displays the increase in data consumption at the Liston Park Telecommunication Facility over the last 5-6 years.

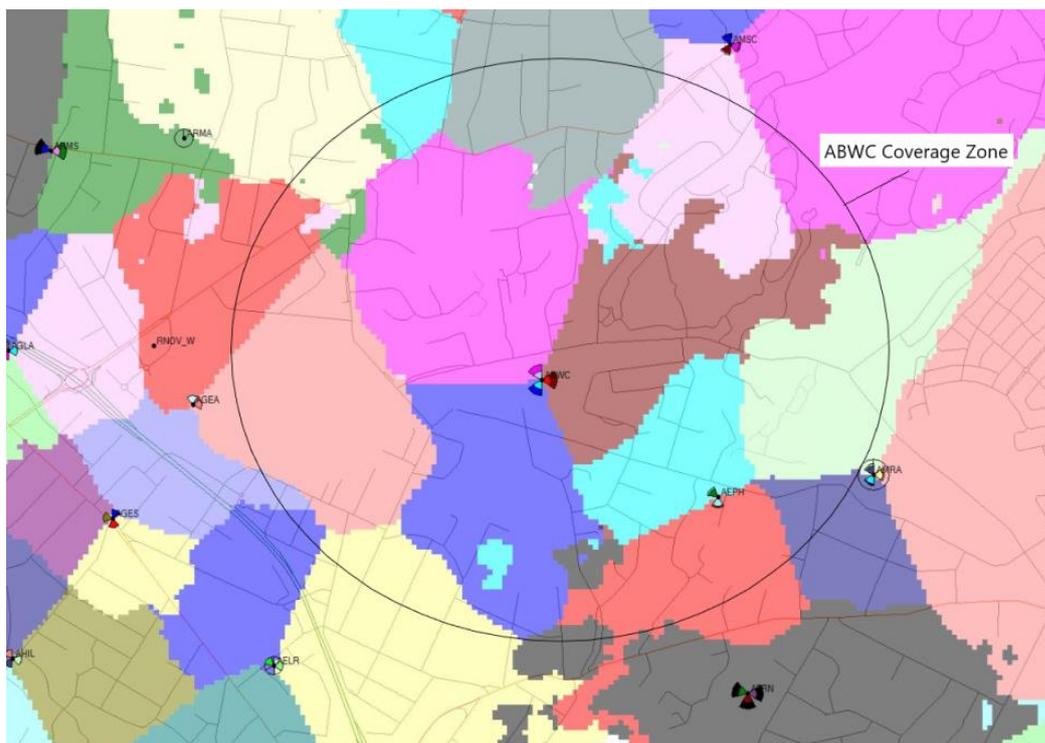
Data consumption, wireless broadband and mobile usage are only projected to increase further over the coming years.



Option 1 – Retaining ABWC in its current location

This is Spark's preferred solution.

- Continued 'status quo' providing for mobile phone coverage, broadband and digital services to residents and businesses in the ABWC coverage zone (identified in the image below).
- A location that is situated away from residential properties and continues to sit comfortably and relatively unobtrusively in the recreational surrounds.
- No need for additional telecommunications facilities with associated ancillary equipment and cabinetry in residential areas. This will remove any need for public debate around relocation and site selection.
- Auckland Council will continue to receive annual rental payments from the site.



Option 2 - removal of ABWC

This solution is not supported by Spark. Removal would mean:

- Potential mobile and digital coverage loss in the area highlighted in yellow below.

- That alternative sites would be located on road reserve. Sites need to be located where people and businesses need to use their devices/utilise the services. This means that the replacement sites would be in residential areas and close to where people live.
- There would be a need for multiple sites to maintain the current quality and level of service produced by the one site within Liston Park (due to its optimal location).
- Generally roadside locations are a permitted under the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities 2016 (NESTF). As such no resource consent or consultation process needs to be followed to establish sites in road sides.
- However, Spark, as per TCF guidelines, would communicate and engage with community neighbours about the alternative new sites and reasoning for relocation.
- Community feedback is that neighbours often prefer telecommunication facilities to be in areas such as reserves and away from where they live.
- Auckland Council will not receive rental for these sites.
- Spark would require between 12-18 months to establish the new sites required to replace AWBC

Indicative design: new light pole mobile site in residential area.

75 Celtic Crescent, Ellerslie



Indicative design: new light pole mobile site in residential area.

627 Remuera Road, Remuera



Indicative design: New standalone pole mobile site in residential area.

Arthur Street junction Pukerangi Crescent



Indicative design: new light pole mobile site in residential area

Arthur Street junction Pukerangi Crescent, Ellerslie

