



3. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

PROPOSED CELLPHONE FACILITY IN BOTTLE LAKE FOREST

Mr Arthur Neely, Director of Engineering Vodafone, and Dr David Black, independent medical consultant, were in attendance to address the Board on Vodafone's proposed cellphone site in Bottle Lake Forest Park. Mr Neely began by outlining that the mobile communications industry was currently growing worldwide, and that by the end of the year 2000 up to 50% of New Zealanders would use mobile phones. This growth increased the demand for Vodafone to improve its service quality. Mr Neely advised that its Parklands area service was currently poor and Vodafone was committed to improving that area of Christchurch. He noted further that the Bottle Lake site was a compromise, as it was behind trees, which would grow to a height that would make the site inoperable in around 10 years time. Mr Neely advised that the proposed site was a balance between quality of service on Vodafone's behalf and minimising the impact of the site on the community. Mr Neely believed that the proposed site achieved both of these ends.

Dr David Black advised the Board that he was a medical practitioner specialising in radio frequency health. He noted that the outputs from the proposed cellphone tower would be extremely low. Dr Black advised that it was well below the world standard for public exposure at 900 MHz of $450\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$, and also met the Christchurch City Council's standard, which was set at one-ninth of the international standard. Dr Black advised that the risk to human health was non-existent with the proposed outputs of this particular cell site.