

**Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Definition 2018:** this definition has been updated in March 2025 and will have a significant impact on facilities deemed to be low impact in rural areas and therefore submittable under a Land Access Activity Notice arrangement. Submission under LAAN provides the telco with significantly more powers when accessing other land (such as our road reserve). Some examples of the changes include:

- Part 3 Above Ground Housing, Equipment Shelter (Item 5): has been increased from a 7.5 square metre base area to 52m<sup>2</sup> (almost 700% increase).
- Part 3 Above Ground Housing, Solar Panel (item 7): solar panel base area from 12.5m<sup>2</sup> to 50m<sup>2</sup> (almost 400% increase).

Additionally it appears multiple structures that are considered low impact can be contained in the one compound, with each individual element is assessed separately under the low impact definition not combined. **This needs to be clarified in the legislation!!**

**What does this mean?** As far as Telcos are considered we have lost considerable control over our road reserve. Recently we have had multiple compounds of 1500m<sup>2</sup> each, plus driveways, go into our rural road reserves through Mid West Gascoyne and the Pilbara. They are apparently considered low impact facilities. This infrastructure will have a significant impact on our ability to widen or realign our roads in the future.

**Proposal:** multiple structures in the one compound area should be covered in the low impact definition. For examples they could have no more than one solar array base panel areas, also there should be a maximum compound area, say for example 500m<sup>2</sup>.