

## Residents of Midrand estate protest negative impact of telecoms mast

**Equestrian estate dwellers claim the structure is visually offensive and poses both a negative health and environmental threat.**

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JOHANNESBURG - Residents of the Randjesfontein country estate in Midrand have launched an application in the North Gauteng High Court to get rid of a 46-metre-high telecommunications mast, which they claim intrudes into their rural lifestyle.

The court last week granted an order, directing the Tshwane Metro Council to provide a record of proceedings pertaining to its decisions regarding the mast, as well as the reasons for the decisions.

Residents of the rural equestrian estate were up in arms when TRX Networks (Pty) erected the massive mast on adjacent property belonging to property developer Bondev Midrand (Pty) Ltd, which developed the high-density Midstream Estate.

They said the mast, which is brightly lit with red lights at night, was an intense intrusion on the rural environment of their neighbourhood and was substantially offensive to them from visual and health perspectives.

Randjesfontein businessman Michael Burgess contended in an affidavit the mast had been erected illegally and that the procedures followed by the respondents to obtain these decisions did not comply with statutory requirements.

He claimed the respondents had failed to comply with the Town Planning Scheme, submitted “defective” building plans for approval, failed to notify affected parties and submitted their “false” applications to Gauteng conservation authorities concerning the public participation process.

“In essence, the process whereby respondents gained authorisation for the mast’s erection is fraught with illegality and irregularity,” Burgess said.

He said a mast of this nature was highly controversial as a result of the health risk, as witnessed by ongoing international debate, and the impact on the environment.

Both Bondev and TRX Networks have given notice of their intention to oppose the application.

**Source:** <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=184898&sn=Detail&pid=800&Residents-of-Midrand-estate-protest-negative-impact-of-telecoms-mast>

