

Submission to: AMEC regarding Accelerating smart meter deployment

From: J McCredden [REDACTED]

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To: AEMC, Level 15 60 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear AEMC Team

As a researcher in the areas of wireless radiation and health, I submit the following issues for the draft determination and rule for accelerating smart meter deployment:

The price to the nation of smart meters is compromised health and productivity

1. Smart electricity meters introduce a harmful agent into homes and neighborhoods. This is because the RF radiation from smart meters is pulsed and continuous. The only aspect of smart meter signaling dealt with by the ARPANSA regulations is the intensity. Irrespective of intensity, if signals are pulsed and continuous, as smart meters are, this will have serious affects on the heart, the brain, neurotransmitters, skin, sleep, headaches and [many aspects of human health](#).¹
2. Loss of individual capacity. Due to the above effects, a smart meter in a household can either erode away resident's health slowly, or have rapid catastrophic effects for those already compromised from some other condition, or sensitive to EMFs.
3. We have received many reports from people who were initially perfectly healthy but who then after having had a smart meter installed, start experiencing nose-bleeds, inability to sleep, chest pain, etc. Hundreds have had to leave their homes.
4. In particular, smart meters create pain, heart pain and arrhythmias, headaches and many other intolerable conditions for people with electromagnetic hypersensitivity. This is all well documented by Lamech's study in Victoria²

Smart meters are not green and clean

5. The issue of smart-metering [has been greenwashed](#) to make it seem like smart meters are going to help save the environment.³ This is far from the truth. They use [more energy](#)⁴ (including wasting all of the resources that went into our old reliable analogue meters).
6. Smart meters only actually need to emit a signal once a month to send the energy usage to the company in order to make a household bill. Why they are emitting constantly has nothing to do with billing. Furthermore, taking data 24/7 does not change householder behavior.
7. The push for smart meters is a business decision that [prioritizes profits](#) over human and planetary health⁵. Smart meters are lucrative for companies but harmful for people and

¹ McCredden JE, Cook N, Weller S and Leach V (2022) Wireless technology is an environmental stressor requiring new understanding and approaches in health care. *Front. Public Health* 10:986315. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2022.986315/full>

² Lamech F. Self-reporting of symptom development from exposure to radiofrequency fields of wireless smart meters in Victoria, Australia: a case series. *Alternative Therapies in Health & Medicine*. 2014 Nov 1;20(6).

³ Nyberg R, McCredden J, Hardell L. The European Union assessments of radiofrequency radiation health risks—another hard nut to crack. *Reviews on Environmental Health*. 2023 Aug 23(0). <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/reveh-2023-0046/pdf>

⁴ Törnevik C. Impact of EMF limits on 5G network roll-out. Presented at: ITU workshop on 5G, EMF & health, Ericsson research, Stockholm. Warsaw; 2017. Available from: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/20171205/Documents/S3_Christer_Tornevik.pdf.

⁵ Nyberg NR, McCredden JE, Weller SG, Hardell L. The European Union prioritises economics over health in the rollout of radiofrequency technologies. *Reviews on Environmental Health*. 2024 Mar 25;39(1):47-64. <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/reveh-2022-0106/html>

the environment (including bees and insects). Big data may be the new oil. However, it is AMECs mandate to ensure the safety of the people and the environment.

8. **Smart Meters are a fire hazard** because they can malfunction due to the remote on- off switching and the high intensity voltage surges caused (see Beety's in-depth analysis ⁶) **Some** have exploded and some have caused fires or have likely contributed to the severity of other fires. In several instances the evidence has been hidden by the utilities company removing the meter before firemen could ascertain the cause of the blaze.

Smart meter data sharing is a violation of privacy laws

9. **Smart meters illegitimately snoop on the populace.** It is inappropriate for electricity companies to be collecting data about people's electricity usage, effectively profiling them, and sharing this information with third parties. This is inadmissible in all other areas of commerce and current internet privacy laws require that users give permission for third party sharing.

People need time to understand and consider their smart meter agreement

10. **The minimum number of business days required for notices should not be reduced** from what is currently required. People need time to investigate their options and understand what they are consenting to. Any contract needs more than 4 day's consideration from offer to acceptance.

The legislation must ensure that:

- Users are advised of the potential health risks and fire risks. All wireless smart meters thus need to be labelled stating that they emit radiofrequency radiation, a Class 2B carcinogen.
- Utility companies are required to have insurance that covers them for harm caused by wireless smart meters.
- Users are able to refuse a digital smart-meter and maintain their analogue meter.
- Utility companies are required to roll out non-radiation-emitting smart meters.
- Users are clearly informed that they are able to refuse a wireless smart meter and instead chose a non-emitting digital meter (type 4A).
- Users are advised of the data privacy issues and are able to opt-out of data sharing.
- The number of notices that retailers send to customers before a new meter deployment should stay at two. The minimum number of business days required for notices should also not be reduced.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. Please send your response to the email address above.

Yours sincerely



J McCredden

⁶ <https://stopsmartmeters.com.au/2019/09/17/smart-meter-fires-and-electrical-problems/>