

Submission Type: Rule Change

Reference: Accelerating smart meter deployment

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Comments: What is the total cost of replacement of electricity meters as proposed for New South Wales, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia? Can the expense be justified, given the aforementioned negative outcomes?
Can the consumer be forced to accept a radiofrequency-radiation-emitting smart meter or have their data shared with third parties if they do not give their consent?

it cannot be assumed that all customers want to have their data shared with third parties, especially when as it will contain sensitive information, including information about a family's equipment, activities and the timing of their movements in and out of the home;

this accumulated data is vulnerable to hacking and there is every reason to expect that sensitive personal details will end up on the dark web, as has been the case with other examples of data hacking in recent years;

people have the right to be consulted about how their personal data will be used.

RF radiation has been repeatedly demonstrated to have harmful effects on the body and on other living creatures.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified radiofrequency radiation as a Class 2B carcinogen.¹

Since that time, more evidence of carcinogenicity has been found from both human and animal studies.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), a global standard for diagnostic health information for health practitioners, lists exposure to radio frequency radiation as a classifiable condition.

Many eminent scientists and doctors have expressed concerns about the effects of RF radiation on people and the environment. For example:

An 'International Appeal', signed by 248 scientists, states that 'Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines.

Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory

deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.'

According to the 2020 Consensus Statement of UK and International Medical and Scientific Experts on Health Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation (RFR), 'The main risks associated with exposure to such (wireless) non-ionising radiation in the peer-reviewed scientific literature include: increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damage, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans.'

Courts in different countries have made determinations recognising that RF radiation could be a health risk, even at exposure levels that complied with standards.

Insurance companies have recognized the risks of RF radiation.

Further, Australia's radiation standard is based on flawed science and does not protect the public. International Commission on the Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields (ICBE-EMF) has examined the relevant science and concluded that 'Exposure limits for RF radiation are based on numerous assumptions; however, research studies published over the past 25 years show that most of those assumptions are not supported by scientific evidence.'

All customers must be able to choose non-radiating electricity meters [meters that don't emit radio frequency radiation] and not be financially – or in any other way – penalised for the choice.

Customers must be given details about what 'data sharing' their electricity provider plans and the opportunity to give or withhold their approval

Customers must be informed that wireless smart meters emit RF radiation that is a Class 2B carcinogen.

The legislation must explicitly acknowledge that:

RF radiation has been classified as a Class 2B carcinogen by the IARC;

some people are more sensitive/vulnerable to RF radiation than others, including foetuses, babies, the sick, people with cancer, the immune compromised and the elderly.

The legislation must require this body to provide appropriate compensation for this outcome.

The legislation must require all electricity providers and smart meter manufacturers to have adequate insurance covering them specifically for adverse effects related to the meters and/or the radio frequency radiation they emit.