

AEMC
Level 15 60 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

29 May 2024

Dear AEMC Team

I am opposed to the installation of smart electricity meters that emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation. We know that RF radiation is harmful because The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified radiofrequency radiation as a Class 2B carcinogen.

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 radiofrequency 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.

I am also opposed to the roll-out of radiation-emitting smart meters because of the harm they do to people with electromagnetic hypersensitivity. A requirement for people to have wireless smart meters on their home would greatly affect people with Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS). EHS is an allergic-type reaction to exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs), including RF radiation.

It results in symptoms of mild to extreme discomfort and impairment, including:

- headaches
- sleep problems
- fatigue
- tinnitus
- concentration and memory problems
- nausea and digestive problems
- skin redness and burning
- pain
- behaviour problems
- depression
- anxiety
- and irritability.

These symptoms are consistent with biological changes that scientists have shown to occur from exposure. These include:

- DNA damage
- changes to neurotransmitters and hormones, including a reduction in melatonin
- changes to cell behaviour, including increased levels of heat shock proteins and calcium ion efflux
- breaches of the blood-brain-barrier
- cell proliferation
- and oxidative stress.

It is not appropriate for electricity companies to be collecting data about people's electricity usage and sharing it with third parties and I do not consent. In Australia, the collection and sharing of individuals' electricity usage data by electricity companies with third parties implicate privacy laws if consent has not been expressed.

The Privacy Act 1988 outlines strict regulations regarding the handling of personal information, including sensitive data such as energy consumption patterns. If electricity companies disclose this information to third parties without proper consent or for purposes beyond what was initially agreed upon, they could be in breach of the Australian Privacy Principles. This unauthorized sharing of data could lead to privacy concerns for individuals, as their personal information may be used in ways that they did not intend or authorize. The importance of upholding privacy laws in such scenarios is crucial to protect individuals' rights and ensure the proper handling of their sensitive data.

The legislation must be changed to ensure that:

1. All wireless smart meters are labelled with information that they emit radiofrequency radiation that is a Class 2B carcinogen;
2. Electricity companies to compensate customers for any harm caused by their RF-radiation-emitting smart meters;
3. Electricity companies to have insurance that covers them for harm caused by wireless smart meters;
4. Electricity companies to roll out non-radiation-emitting smart meters;
5. Electricity companies must obtain written consent for sharing data obtained by their smart meters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments and I look forward to receiving your response.

Regards,



Renee Maisch

All rights reserved
Without Prejudice