

[REDACTED]

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AEMC
Level 15
60 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear AEMC Team

Accelerating smart meter deployment rule change

I am writing to express my views on the draft determination and rule for accelerating smart meter deployment.

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. For example, 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.

I am also opposed to electricity companies collecting data about people's electricity usage and sharing it with third parties. This is because it's a total violation of our basic rights and freedoms.

The legislation must be changed to ensure that all wireless smart meters are labelled with information that they emit radiofrequency radiation that is a Class 2B carcinogen. The legislation must require electricity companies to compensate customers for any harm caused by their RF-radiation-emitting smart meters. The legislation must require electricity companies to have insurance that covers them for harm caused by wireless smart meters. The legislation must be changed to require electricity companies to roll out non-radiation-emitting smart meters. The legislation must be changed to require electricity companies to obtain written consent for sharing data obtained by their smart meters. The number of notices that retailers send to customers before a new meter deployment should not be reduced from two to one. The minimum number of business days required for notices should also not be reduced from what is currently required.

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

S.L

Steven Lewanski