

23 May, 2024

Dear AEMC Team,

I am writing to oppose the draft determination and rule for accelerating smart meter deployment.

The first reason why I object to the roll-out of wireless smart meters is that they emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation. It has been scientifically shown that this radiation is harmful to people and the environment. Australia's radiation standard is based on flawed science and does not protect the public.

Another reason why I oppose radiation-emitting smart meters is that they create intolerable problems for people with EHS. Especially to people like myself (elderly and all children) with electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS). Symptoms experienced include headaches, sleep problems, fatigue, pain to name a few.

Also, I do not consent to any electricity company collecting data about my electricity usage and sharing it with third parties without my written consent. This is mainly because 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 months.

The legislation must be changed to ensure the following:

* that all wireless smart meters are labelled with information that they emit radiofrequency radiation that is a Class 2B carcinogen.

* electricity companies to compensate customers for any harm caused by their RF-radiation-emitting smart meters.

* electricity companies to have insurance that covers them for harm caused by wireless smart meters.

* electricity companies to roll out non-radiation-emitting smart meters.

* 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. Customers should be respected for their choice to opt out of smart meter changes.

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

Kind regards,

Wilma Catsaros