

Submission Type: Rule Change

Reference: Minor changes 1 2025

Organisation: The Spong Family

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Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been informed by my Electricity company (Alinta) that I will have to have a “smart” meter installed at my property. Apparently, the The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has said that this is to be so.

This is a decision taken by an unelected bureaucratic body and is patently authoritarian.

I am objecting to this “Minor Rule Change” because I believe that it is an invasion of privacy and could open the door to my solar and battery systems being used to deliver power to the grid at times and in quantities that are detrimental to my electricity bill. Furthermore, I consider that having this meter connected to the internet opens the door to potential hacking of the system by bad actors and possible shutting down of electricity supply to my property or the theft of power from my solar/battery system. In short, an invasion of my privacy.

These are my concerns.

1. Apparently, according to the Alinta FAQ page, smart meters can provide one with more accurate and detailed information about one’s energy consumption, provides for time of use tariffs, which can help one make more informed decisions on my consumption habits and potentially lead to energy savings.
2. I am perfectly capable of realising that, for example, I should run my pool pump and other appliances during the day to utilise my solar power. I don’t need a new meter to tell me this.
3. I might well not want to be transferred without my say so to a time of use tariff.
4. Whatever protection that is provided by law for the system and my data, I am extremely concerned that the wireless network can be hacked, and data loss occur. There is a very high probability that this can and will occur; one only has to look at the recent theft of money from Super funds through a cyber hack.
5. Are smart meters safe? These meters may well be made to “Australian standards” but where are they made? In China, I expect. I am highly suspicious of anything made in China because it could contain malware or a camera or other features that could interrupt the electricity supply. Huawei was banned from Australian sites because of such fears. I don’t want the possibility of such equipment being installed on my property.
6. Time of use tariff. If I was made to subscribe to such a tariff, I am concerned that the electricity company could override my solar system at peak times and force me to use power from the grid when I have a fully charged battery that could provide me the power at zero cost to me. I

have heard of so called “smart” air conditioners being capable of having their output cut by 50% during times of low electricity supply due to unreliable energy sources such as windmills. I would be very angry if I knew that I was effectively having my electricity consumption controlled by an external agency against my wishes. Are you able to reassure me that this is not the case?

I would appreciate it if you could address these concerns and note my strong and continuing objection to having a ‘smart’ meter installed at my property.

Yours,

David Spong

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