

Stop Smart Meters Australia Inc

Invitation for public participation in legal action to halt the rollout of smart meters in Victoria and to remove smart meters which have already been installed

Preamble

Smart meters are a danger to your health because they emit pulsed RF frequencies that have been classified by the IARC as a Group 2B carcinogen.

Smart meters invade your privacy because they act as a surveillance device on your home, collecting your personal usage data so that it can be potentially sold to third parties.

Smart meters are a security risk because they are vulnerable to hackers and they enable remote disconnection of the whole State from a few central locations, being the offices of the foreign owned power companies.

Smart meters can cause fires because, in the case of older houses, existing wiring may not be compatible with the new device.

Smart meters may increase your power bill because, depending on usage patterns, they provide an opportunity for the power companies to gouge you with 'time of use' pricing.

Smart meters are being forced on you without your consent thereby breaching your democratic and human rights.

SSMA Membership drive announced

Stop Smart Meters Australia Inc. (SSMA) was formed by concerned citizens to oppose the forced rollout of wireless electricity smart meters in Victoria. SSMA opposes smart meters on the grounds of health, privacy, security, safety, cost and believes the forced rollout to be a serious breach of our democratic and human rights.

SSMA needs your support to launch legal action

Our continuous lobbying over the past two years has yet to persuade the Victorian Government and the power companies to halt their program, despite the ever mounting evidence, from both here in Victoria and overseas, that smart meters are a clear and present danger to the community because they emit pulsed radiofrequencies (RF) which can induce acute biological effects.

Australia's (RF) standard is based on very old ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) guidelines which only provide protection from thermal damage for short term exposures. There is no consideration for lifetime chronic exposures to multiple transmitters, to non-thermal effects, for effects on vulnerable and sensitive people in our community, especially babies and children, or on those who have medical implants which can be affected by electromagnetic radiation (EMR) interference. Similarly, there is no consideration by our RF Standards for the complex frequency and modulation patterns used by these devices which have been shown to have deleterious effects on human cells and their biological function.

Power distribution companies were mandated (instructed) by the Victorian government, but not legislated, to use their 'best endeavours' to install a smart meter in every home and small business by the end of 2013.

Clearly this mandate has been seriously breached. SSMA knows this is fact, because of our personal experiences and stories that our members and website participants have told us. These stories tell of power company endorsed installers bullying and coercing home owners, forcing installations on them. This action denies the home owner their democratic right not to have a smart meter, based on their personal assessment of the dangers. Installers use threatening language indicating that power will be disconnected if the installation is refused, which is misleading and incompatible with a 'best endeavours' philosophy.

Stop Smart Meters Australia has now decided that, in conjunction with continuing protests, to commence an action in the Victorian Courts to force the cessation of the roll out program.

SSMA needs you to become a member now

You can help in this regard. Our organisation aims to ensure that our membership base reflects the large number of people who oppose the installation of smart meters for a variety of reasons. Becoming a member is simple and inexpensive, just \$10 for an annual membership for individuals or \$20 for families. The larger our membership, the more weight will be added to our argument and the more influence our actions will have on government and power distributors.

To become a member just go to <http://stopsmartmeters.com.au/membership/> to access the membership application page. Once you have printed out a copy of the application, complete your details and post to:- The Secretary, Stop Smart Meters Australia Inc., PO Box 460, Carnegie, VIC 3163. Alternatively there is a combined 'membership' and 'join legal action' form available via a link on the last page of this invitation.

During our membership drive we will continue to take legal advice and publish further comprehensive information as it comes to hand regarding the proposed Court action as well as the associated costs and risks.

SSMA has been preparing the case

SSMA has and will continue to grow its registry of Victorians, who have documented medical evidence that shows they are suffering as a result of being exposed to microwave radio frequencies emitted from smart meters. These sufferers will provide a basis to launch legal action, together with those Victorians who refuse a smart meter, or demand that a smart meter be removed, because they believe that it will cause them harm.

The case will be further enhanced by argument from those who may have not yet reported health issues, but oppose smart meters on the basis of privacy, security, fire risk, cost and/or the undemocratic nature of the rollout mentioned in the above preamble.

Additionally, SSMA has secured the services of Australian and international experts to enable specialist evidence to be presented at court to substantiate our case.

If you recently began suffering constant headaches, dizziness, insomnia, lethargy, heart beat irregularities, unexplained skin rashes, ringing in the ears, memory or vision disturbances or other symptoms, and believe they have only occurred since a smart meter was installed on your property or your neighbours', we would like to hear from you at health.register@stopsmartmeters.com.au or you can write to us at the postal address above.

SSMA believes the health aspects are critical, but this does not diminish the importance of other major failings of the smart meter program

It is only in Victoria that the government, by mandating the power distribution companies, forcing the installation of smart meters on citizens. Even if you have come to an informed decision that you do not want a smart meter, because of deleterious health effects or any other reason, the distribution companies will force you to have one. This is not democracy. You should have the right to choose.

It's clearly evident that the power distributors wish to introduce smart meters as a tool to sell you the same electricity you buy today, only at a higher price to you and a lower cost to them.

Apart from the increases in electricity costs flowing through the community today, we can expect to continue to be paying more, as 'time of use pricing' is introduced more broadly from July 2013. We have all seen the power distributors' advertisements promoting the idea of 'time of use pricing' as a consumer benefit. However, unless you are able to switch your usage patterns so that you cook, clean and do washing at 3.00 am, this is obviously not true.

In fact, because a vast number of Victorian homes use gas for their overnight energy needs (such as for hot water and heating), these home owners can expect to pay more for essential daytime usage and not get any advantage from a reduced rate in off peak hours.

The power distributors wish to reduce their operating costs at the expense of meter readers' jobs. They also wish to reduce their capital expenditure on infrastructure needed to maintain and expand capacity, by being able to turn off your power at times when they need to reduce demand. These measures are all about increasing profits. The power distributors present the measures as altruistic and environmentally friendly based decisions. SSMA contend that the general public are not that naive.

Smart meters send details of your power usage to the power company many times a day. By monitoring this data they can monitor your movements, whether you are home or out, whether you are going to work or whether you are away on holidays. Apart from power company staff, any competent hacker can access this data and use or sell the information to their advantage. We know for a fact that at least one of the power distributors is storing their data on servers in the USA, and may sell access to the data to third parties to serve commercial interests.

Article 12 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights states:-

“No one shall be subject to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”

Clearly the Victorian government seems to have a problem with this philosophy.

As citizens we regard Article 12 as an inalienable right. There are occasions when people must act to protect their rights. SSMA believes this is such an occasion.

SSMA needs you to act now by taking two steps

- A) Become a member of SSMA if you have not already done so, and
- B) Join the Legal Action.

Joining the Legal Action is an option only available for SSMA members. You can apply to both A) become a member of SSMA and B) join the legal action by downloading a combined application form by clicking here: [Combined Legal Action Form](#). If you are already a member of SSMA you can use this same combined form to now apply to B) join the legal action.

To be part of the legal action we ask for an initial contribution of \$200 which will be held in trust to fund the legal action.

Help us broaden our reach by talking about this critical issue with your friends and neighbours, encouraging them to also join.

**SSMA believes that strength in numbers
will help send a powerful message**

Please JOIN NOW

Stop Smart Meter Australia Team

<http://stopsmartmeters.com.au>



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Smart Meters breach democratic and human rights