



**STOP SMART METERS AUSTRALIA INC**

Reg. No. A0059190N ABN 14 717 028 504

## Federal Ministers

### The ACMA's conflicted role

Stop Smart Meters Australia (SSMA), on behalf of its members and supporters, hereby requests Australian politicians to address serious systemic issues which have arisen due to the Australian Communications and Media Authority's dual role as both a seller and regulator of spectrum.

**SSMA believes this conflict in roles has resulted in an inadequate level of protection against the effects of non-ionizing radiation for the Australian public.**

SSMA believes that the only viable means of resolving this situation is to split the two roles, and set up a separate regulatory body which has sole responsibility for making standards for *'protecting the health or safety of persons who are reasonably likely to be affected by the operation of radiocommunications transmitters or radiocommunications receivers'* (s 162, Radiocommunications Act 1992).

SSMA believes this issue should be addressed with the utmost urgency, in light of rapidly increasing levels of pulsed radiofrequencies in our environment. According to Professor Olle Johansson, of the Karolinska Institute, background radiation levels are now one million billion times the levels in 1980. The current vesting of responsibility to the ACMA for both maximizing spectrum revenue and protecting the health of the public from effects of radiofrequencies is a conflict of interest.

As it stands, the ACMA has declined to adopt the precautionary elements of the ARPANSA's standard for *Maximum Exposure Levels to Radiofrequency Fields – 3 kHz to 300 GHz* in its own standard, the ACMA's *Radiocommunications (Electromagnetic Radiation – Human Exposure) Standard 2003*. Given that the ARPANSA's radiofrequency standard only provides protection against gross thermal effects (unlike radiofrequency standards and guidelines in a number of other countries), the omission of ARPANSA's precautionary clauses further erodes protection to the public. The ACMA's standard also excludes protection to certain parts of the population (Defence and Police).

**This systemic lack of protection of the Australian public is compounded as other regulatory bodies which have legislative responsibility for ensuring the safety of the public (such as Energy Safe Victoria) are falling back on the ACMA to provide this via its legislation.**

### Precautionary principle

Specifically, SSMA calls for Australian politicians to adopt the precautionary principle in regards to the rollout of wireless advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). AMI is resulting in a situation where large parts of the population are being exposed 24/7 to a transmitting antenna, which often is located only centimetres from their heads whilst sleeping. A number of bodies elsewhere have sounded very strong warnings against unnecessary exposure to wireless emissions. Children are at particular risk from low-level radiation. The Council of Europe's 2011

PO Box 460, Carnegie, Vic 3163  
contact@stopsmartmeters.com.au

[www.stopsmartmeters.com.au](http://www.stopsmartmeters.com.au)

resolution on the potential dangers of electromagnetic fields recommended that **all reasonable measures are taken to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields**<sup>i</sup>. The Council also recommended that particular attention be given **‘to “electrosensitive” people who suffer from a syndrome of intolerance to electromagnetic fields and introduce special measures to protect them, including the creation of wave-free areas not covered by the wireless network’**.

ANSES (France’s Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) echoed these recommendations in its 2013 assessment of the risks related to exposures to radiofrequencies (RF). Specifically, ANSES recommended **‘limiting the population’s exposure to radiofrequencies – in particular from mobile phones – especially for children and intensive users, and controlling the overall exposure that results from relay antennas’**<sup>ii</sup>.

### Clear labelling

SSMA also advocates for all smart meters and advanced metering mesh infrastructure (access points and relays) to prominently display labels depicting both a visual RF danger image in addition to a plain English statement, in order to alert the public to a source of RF. This falls in line with both the Council of Europe's resolution and ANSES's recommendations.

### Establishment of radio-quiet zones for EHS (electrically hypersensitive) persons

SSMA calls on Federal politicians to establish radio-quiet zones which are available for accommodating the needs of the increasing portion of the Australian population who have become intolerant to electromagnetic fields.

### Australia needs Parliament to act *now*

In conclusion, to quote from the Council of Europe's 2011 resolution on the potential dangers of electromagnetic fields:

**"Waiting for high levels of scientific and clinical proof before taking action to prevent well-known risks can lead to very high health and economic costs, as was the case with asbestos, leaded petrol and tobacco."**

SSMA, as a purely volunteer-based advocacy organization, which grew out of the Victorian public's backlash to wired smart meters, is at the coal-face of the tragic results of Australia's inadequate regulation of sources of EMR. We hope you can help remedy this situation.

*Stop Smart Meters Australia, June 2014*

### References

---

<sup>i</sup> Council of Europe, Resolution 1815 (2011), *The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment*. Available:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta11/ERES1815.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> ANSES 2013, Press Kit, *Update of the “Radiofrequencies and health” expert appraisal*. Available:

<http://bit.ly/19MexVc>