



Smart Meters are being installed in our neighbourhood

Why we should care....

HUMAN HEALTH and the ENVIRONMENT: Electromagnetic radiation, such as that emitted by Smart Meters, has proven negative biological effects on living tissue.

PRIVACY and SECURITY: Smart Meters collect and wirelessly transmit private data. Detailed profiles of our activities can be deduced from the unique electrical signature of each appliance. Security experts warn that wireless Smart Meter technology is especially vulnerable to remote cyber-attack and electricity theft. Two-way communications also give power companies the ability to remotely shut off power.

SAFETY: Problems include interference with a wide range of medical and electronic devices, radiofrequencies coupling on to household wiring, plus increased vulnerability to atmospheric events, leading to fires, explosions, and damaged appliances.

HIGHER BILLS and MINIMAL ENERGY CONSERVATION : A one year Canadian study on Toronto Hydro customers showed Smart Meters increased bills for about 80% of consumers, with no significant energy conservation.

PUBLIC INPUT and CUSTOMER CHOICE: The Victorian government mandated power distributors in 2006 to use their 'best endeavours' to install Smart Meters in every household and small business by the end of 2013. Despite the Victorian Auditor-General's scathing conclusions in 2009 regarding the flawed nature of the cost-benefit study behind the roll-out, and the limited public input and lack of transparency in the 2011 review of the Smart Meter roll-out by Department of Treasury and Finance ([Smart Meters in Victoria: Information and Concerns](#)), the decision was made by the current government to continue with the program with minor modifications.

However there is NO legislation in place obligating customers to accept a Smart Meter.

Smart Meters take away the choice to manage electromagnetic pollution in our own homes.



Health Effects

Tens of thousands of Smart Meter complaints overseas have been submitted to authorities. In Victoria, as elsewhere, people are becoming sick when Smart Meters are connected to their electrical systems, even people who were not previously electro-hypersensitive. The most common symptoms are:

- insomnia • tinnitus • headache • fatigue • dizziness • agitation
- nausea • memory problems • palpitations and other heart problems

About 3% of the population is sensitive to electromagnetic radiation according to overseas surveys, with some countries showing significantly higher results. Numbers are growing. Many scientific studies also show systemic long-term health effects. *....exposure is additive and consumers may have already increased their exposure to radiofrequency radiation through voluntary use of wireless devices... It would be impossible to know how close a consumer might be to their limit, making safety a uncertainty with the installation of a mandatory SmartMeter.* Dr Namkung, Public Health Officer, County of Santa Cruz, 2012: [Health Risks Associated with SmartMeters](#)

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine has opposed the installation of wireless Smart Meters "based on a scientific assessment of the current medical literature... current medical literature raises credible questions about genetic and cellular effects, hormonal effects, male fertility, blood/brain damage and increased risk of certain types of cancers...": [Resolution to the Public Utilities Commission](#).

"We have evidence...that exposure to radiofrequency radiation... increases the risk of cancer, increases damage to the nervous system, causes electrosensitivity, has adverse reproductive effects and a variety of other effects on different organ systems. There is no justification for the statement that Smart Meters have no adverse health effects."

Dr. David Carpenter, Director of the Institute of Health and the Environment, University of Albany, New York; former head of the New York State Department of Public Health.



"...children's heads can absorb double or more the radio frequency energy of adults' heads."

Dr. Devra Davis, Epidemiologist and founding director of the Toxicology and Environmental Studies Board at the United States National Academy of Sciences.

"There are no current, relevant public safety standards for pulsed RF involving chronic exposure of the public, nor of sensitive populations, nor of people with metal and medical implants..."

Dr. Poki Namkung, Public Health Officer, County of Santa Cruz, pp. 9 - 18, Att. B: [Health Risks Associated with SmartMeters](#)

Emissions given off by Smart Meters were classified by the World Health Organization as a Class 2B Possible Human Carcinogen in 2011.



Smart Meter radiation exposure is 24/7 and involuntary

Scientists know that electromagnetic radiation has a cumulative effect on the body. Pulsed or modulated signals can be especially harmful. Research indicates RF/microwave radiation is linked to increased risk of cancer, neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, and impairments to immune function and fertility.

In the mesh network deployed by CitiPower, Powercor, Jemena and United Energy, each meter receives and repeats short, sharp pulsed signals from nearby homes all day and night. In the WiMAX network deployed by SP AusNet radiofrequency (RF) emissions may extend up to around 50 kilometres.

- 'Collector hubs' (Relays and Access Points) add to Electromagnetic Pollution in the home and neighbourhood. Why won't power distributors tell us where these are?
- RF microwaves emitted from SP AusNet base station towers for Smart Meter transmissions add to Electromagnetic Pollution in the home and neighbourhood.
- 'Dirty' electricity (high frequency voltage transients) from the switched-mode power supply of Smart Meters and from RF coupling on to household wiring increases Electromagnetic Pollution in the home and neighbourhood.
- Home Area Network emissions from wireless transmissions between household appliances (such as washing machines, fridges and air-conditioners) and in-home display units add to Electromagnetic Pollution in the home and neighbourhood.

Why not instead connect Smart Meters to fibre-optic cables to reduce radiation, protect privacy, and improve integrity and longevity of Smart Meter technology?



People Speaking Up



Concerned Victorians are taking a number of steps to win back their rights. In California the backlash against Smart Meters due to health issues was so strong that consumers now have the right to have 'spinning disk' meters re-installed. In the UK, health and privacy concerns led the government to make Smart Meters voluntary.

If you haven't already had a Smart Meter installed:

Print out a No Smart Meter sign and put on your meter box. (Some people are also locking their gates etc.). Back this up with written advice to your power distributor.

All concerned Victorians:

Make your views known to your Member of Parliament and Upper House Members. Visit, phone and write to them. Contact details for your electorate are available at: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/members>

Consider writing to the Minister (keep a copy), listing your concerns:
Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras, Minister for Energy and Resources,
Level 2, 3 Treasury Place, Melbourne, VIC 3000

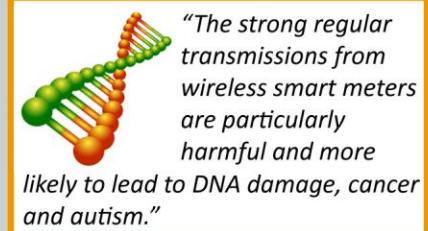
If time is a constraint, email to nicholas.kotsiras@parliament.vic.gov.au

Also consider writing to the Department of Primary Industries:
Smart Meters Feedback, Department of Primary Industries
GPO Box 4440, Melbourne VIC 3001

Consider contacting media. Try your local newspaper, radio stations plus:
The Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/letters/submit>
Herald Sun: publicdefender@heraldsun.com.au
Today Tonight: <http://au.news.yahoo.com/today-tonight/contactus>, or
A Current Affair: <http://aca.ninemsn.com.au/feedback.aspx>

For investigating and resolving disputes with your power distributor and electricity retailer contact the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria: Freecall 1800 500 509.

Subscribe to www.stopsmartmeters.com.au and receive regular updates
Sign the on-line petition. Put up posters! Hold neighbourhood meetings!



Dr. Andrew Goldsworthy, Hon. Lecturer
Imperial College London: [How Smart Meters May Cause Autism and Cancer.](#)

"It is imperative that national security, human rights issues, public safety and the economic well-being of countries are taken into account with regard to Smart Meters.... At present 'future-proof' fibre-optic Smart Meter systems appear to be the best option for large-scale roll-outs."

Dr. Isaac Jamieson, Scientific advisor on Stakeholder groups in the UK and EU:
p. 19, [Smart Meters – Smarter Practices.](#)



"...we are not the only species at jeopardy, practically all animals and plants may be at stake."

Dr. Olle Johansson, Assoc. Prof., The Experimental Dermatology Unit, Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute & Professor, The Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden: [Letter to California Utilities Commission.](#)

Hint: Try to ensure full details of your family's health are documented by your doctor before you get a Smart Meter. Ask your doctor to record complaints that arise following installation. If you are electro-hypersensitive, make sure this is noted on your file.

STOP This flyer is available at:
www.stopsmartmeters.com.au 2