



STOP SMART METERS AUSTRALIA INC

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MEDIA RELEASE

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VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT HEALTH SAFETY AUDIT OF SMART METERS

“Stop Smart Meters Australia (SSMA) commends the Victorian Government’s decision to conduct an independent audit to determine whether there are any health risks associated with smart meters” said Marc Florio, President of Stop Smart Meters Australia.

“We are, however, disappointed that the rollout has not being suspended prior to the audit’s outcome. We call on the Government to immediately suspend the smart meter rollout until the audit has come to its conclusion, in light of the public’s concerns.”

SSMA formally incorporated as an Association in April 2013, in response to the community’s objections to the Victorian AMI rollout. Paramount within our legal purposes is providing support and assistance to people who are opposed to the forced rollout of smart meters for various issues, including health, and to raise awareness of these issues.

Marc Florio stated:

“Our members are most concerned that the scope of this audit will not extend beyond the aims of earlier investigations. Previous safety investigations have suffered from serious systemic faults and have not included health issues. “

“The aim of the *AMI Meter Electromagnetic Field Survey*, commissioned by the Victorian Government in 2011, was simply to determine if emissions from smart meters met the relevant ARPANSA standard. As its authors acknowledged, the ARPANSA standard is only designed to protect from heat injury and does not take into account other biological effects. However, a number of scientific studies have shown that non-thermal effects may lead to highly undesirable outcomes. The unique 24/7 pulsation pattern deployed by wireless smart meters (in the mesh networks individual meters transmit an average of 9,600 times per day) appears to be a major culprit. SSMA believes that seeking to confirm that smart meter emissions met the current ARPANSA standard, whilst ignoring non-thermal effects, was a waste of taxpayers’ funds.”

“Similarly, although ESV’s 2012 report into safety was titled ‘*Safety of Advanced Metering Infrastructure in Victoria*’, ESV abrogated its responsibilities in regards to health concerns, stating that potential health effects was the subject of separate regulatory arrangements administered by ACMA, which incorporates ARPANSA’s exposure limits and that they had also been subject to a Victorian Government review (i.e. the aforementioned *AMI Meter Electromagnetic Field Survey*).”

“We trust that the Government’s new audit will indeed examine the reality of why so many Victorians and people elsewhere claim to have developed symptoms, or to have had existing symptoms exacerbated, as a result of the rollout of wireless advanced metering infrastructure. Written evidence submitted to the UK Parliament in 2012 attested to the fact that the pulsed radiation from smart meters has resulted in thousands of health complaints world-wide. More than 10,000 health-related complaints were submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission alone, and included personal testimonies from medical doctors, psychotherapists and nurses regarding their own symptoms.”

Marc Florio continued,

“Stop Smart Meters Australia is pleased that the government recognizes the importance of ensuring that the audit is conducted by an independent organization. Further to this SSMA believes, in order to ensure the audit’s credibility, that it is imperative that the personnel concerned have *no* vested interest in the outcome. As an example, although the *AMI Meter Electromagnetic Field Survey* has been described as an independent report, there appears to be a close link between industry and one of its chief authors.”

“Clearly, as the issue involves current and potential future health risks to the Victorian population, personnel will need to have relevant medical qualifications with respect to non-ionizing radiation.”

“Stop Smart Meters Australia is particularly concerned that the scope of the audit may not be broad enough to encompass all areas of concern in relation to health risks. Unfortunately, AMI technology has been rolled out worldwide prior to the undertaking of *any* studies relating to safety. Specifically, the question we have is ‘Will the audit include biological testing to establish whether smart meter emissions are causing effects such as breaches of the blood/brain barrier, selective release of calcium from cell membranes, DNA single and double strand breaks and nerve cell death?’ Additionally, ‘Do these effects vary with the population?’ For example, regulatory bodies in a number of countries are particularly concerned with the effects of radiofrequency radiation on children. “
