



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

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MIN-251103931

Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Legislative Council

council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 November 2025 about the petition presented to the Legislative Council by the Hon Jeff Bourman, MLC, Member for the Eastern Victoria Region, calling on the government to change regulations to allow electricity smart meter communications capabilities to be disabled.

Victoria has near universal roll-out of smart meters and it remains the Victorian Government's policy that smart meters are the standard electricity metering infrastructure. Smart meters help customers access their personal energy usage data, increasing their control over their energy consumption and their power bills. Smart meters enable faster and cheaper power reconnections. Electricity companies can also pinpoint faults and act more quickly to fix them.

Electricity distributors are required to install smart meters in all residential premises, and all remotely read interval meters must meet minimum functionality specifications. The remote reading function allows for efficient reporting of electricity use for billing purposes, assists with faster fault identification and the safe management of the network. Smart meters use radio communication technologies to communicate remotely using radio frequency electromagnetic energy (RF EME), similar to those of mobile phones, Wi-Fi and other devices in the home and the community.

Smart meters must meet all relevant Australian standards and safety guidelines for electricity metering equipment. This includes compliance with the general public exposure limit to RF EME emissions developed by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), which is designed to protect the public against all known adverse health effects. These standards are regulated by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), which require smart meters and other emitting devices to comply with the exposure limit specified by ARPANSA. The ARPANSA standards are based on scientific research into the levels at which harmful effects occur and they set limits based on international guidelines, well below these harmful levels.

Extremely low frequency (ELF) electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are emitted by electricity powerlines, substations, transformers and other electrical sources such as electrical appliances and residential wiring. The Electricity and Health section of the ARPANSA website states that scientific evidence does not establish that exposure to ELF EMF found around the home, the office or near powerlines and other electrical sources is a hazard to human health.

Should the signatories to the petition have any further concerns about the public exposure limit, RF EME or ELF EME, they may wish to contact ARPANSA at info@arpansa.gov.au or on 1800 022 333.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely



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05/02/2026