



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

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

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Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Legislative Council
council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 July 2024 about the petition presented to the Legislative Council by Mr Jeff Bourman, Member for the Eastern Victoria Region, calling on the government to change regulations to allow the remote function of electricity smart meters to be disabled.

The universal rollout of smart meters in Victoria is complete, and it remains the Victorian Government's policy that smart meters are the standard electricity metering infrastructure in Victoria. Smart meters help customers access their personal energy usage data, increasing their control over their energy consumption and their power bills. Smart meters also enable faster and cheaper power reconnections by allowing power companies to 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.

It is ARPANSA's role to review the research into potential health effects of RF EME emissions from smart meters and other sources to provide accurate and up-to-date advice.

Should the signatories to the petition have any further concerns about the public exposure limit, 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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