

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

2-6 Rae Street,

Colac VIC 3250

November 20th 2023

Dear Mayor Margaret White and Councillors

Regarding an email received from Doug McNeil on 16th October 2023 stating that council does not require consideration of public health and safety when it comes to approval of cell tower permits.

We, of the Collective have many issues about this blatant disregard for your obligations to ensure public health and safety in public spaces.

We believe it is your responsibility before approval of permits for any tower that emits RF-EMR frequencies to ensure we will not be subjected to carcinogenic radiation beyond levels any human, animal, or vegetation can tolerate to maintain health and well being.

Consider that there are many councils that take seriously the regular monitoring of safety levels of cumulative electrosmog toxicity and are prepared to apply the Precautionary Principle rather than approve technology that in the long term is deemed unsafe.

Here is an example. I will attach here a letter from Mayor Peter Höß of Bad Wiessee a town in Bavaria Germany and the reasons given to halt 5G.

Further examples of councils around the world that applied the Precautionary Principle, rather than deal with the ensuing issues of dismantling technology in their respective shires due to safety problems.

[List of States, Cities, Towns, Councils and Countries that have Banned 5G](#)

Globally, there is a growing awareness of the health impact of the 4G/5G densification is resulting in action by policymakers worldwide. Cities are issuing resolutions and calls for research before deployment.

[International Actions to Halt and Delay 5G](#)

In the US the FDA has been found guilty of dismissing safety advice on carcinogenicity of wireless technology emissions.

"I find it shocking that the FDA would casually dismiss the carcinogenicity findings from the National Toxicology Program (NTP) studies on cell phone radiation in experimental animals, when it was the FDA that requested those studies in the first place 'to provide the basis to assess the risk to human health,' and when an expert peer-review panel carefully reviewed the design and conduct of those studies and then concluded that the results provided "clear evidence of carcinogenic activity," stated [Ronald Melnick PhD](#) who led the design of the \$30M NTP study. Melnick sent [a letter to the FDA](#) documenting the scientific inaccuracies in their review.

[Video](#) of Ronald Melnick PhD, former National Institutes of Health Scientist, Devra Davis PhD, president of Environmental Health Trust, , Steven Sinatra MD, cardiologist

and Hillel Baldwin MD, a neurosurgeon in Tucson, Arizona providing expert commentary on the FDA report.

There is a plethora of issues relating to deploying 5G in our local area. One major issue of course who is responsible for safety of the public in public places? Following from this, is who can be found personally liable if the decision to allow 5G into our shire's zone ends up causing irreparable to anyone within the shire's bounds?

Do you think individual councillors are safe from being sued if a person known to have electromagnetic sensitivity is affected in the shire?

[How could personal liability arise for a councillor?](#)

According to solicitor Jessica Learmond Criqui , there are essentially two ways in which personal liability to you could arise if you disregard and do not act on this:

- (a) You sit on committees and one of them has been: (i) planning matters permitting masts and antennae to be approved; or (ii) making decisions about health, safety and wellbeing matters;
- (b) misfeasance or misconduct in public office which is a criminal offence.

The fact the council produces a specific Health and Well Being Plan every four years indicates that you are in control of health and well being decisions within your shire's jurisdiction.

[Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008](#) (the Act) recognises the key role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people in their municipality. Section 26 of the Act

requires each council to prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan every 4 years, within 12 months of a council general election. [Vic Dept of Health](#)

Please note also in 1995 the government was concerned that enough people were experiencing health issues with electromagnetic radiation from wireless technology that it delivered two independent organisations to research EME to study potential carcinogenic effects of radiofrequency radiation on DNA.

[Chapter 3 - Allocation of Australian radiofrequency electromagnetic energy program funds](#)

In fact, \$4.5 million Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy Program, stated aim of which is to address community concerns about exposure to electromagnetic radiation occurring in the radiofrequency range of the spectrum: The two committees are: The Committee on Electromagnetic Energy Public Health Issues (CEMEPHI) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

On 13 September 2019 the Minister for Communications, Hon Paul Fletcher MP asked the Environment and Communications Committee to inquire into and report on the deployment, adoption and application of 5G in Australia.

Added to this inquiry a joint [media release](#) from the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts and Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, who has portfolio responsibility for the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), proclaimed that the Morrison Government would spend **\$9 million over four years to build public confidence in**

the safety of telecommunications networks – including new 5G mobile networks – and to address “misinformation” (*there’s that magic word again*) about electromagnetic energy (EME) emissions. No I can’t see a conflict of interest, or collusion with the telecommunications industry, not at all!

There were over 400 submissions with concerns over this technology many were specialists in field of science in line with the deployment of the technology but they were steamrolled seems the billion dollar industry had too many stakeholders of more importance than ensuring safety and well-being of the general public. Here are the links to 5G Inquiry exhibits which were largely ignored.

[B. Exhibits](#)

Scoot on down the track January 24 2020 after the inquiry into deployment we have [Brendan Murphy Chief Medical Officer espousing, nothing to see here everything is completely safe with 5G.](#)

The Australian Government had provided a cursory response to the public’s health concerns by spending millions on another dog and pony sideshow, I mean a committee attached to the Department of Health and Aged Care that involved talking to a scientist and another register of EMF health complaints.

The claim by ARPANSA was that the EMF Register was not used and the talk to the scientist program was more successful and subsequently the EMF Register

was closed down in 2022. Could it be that people were not adequately informed of the register's existence and the TTAS program was advertised better?

The majority of funding for public engagement through ARPANSA is for smoothing over public opinion like an ongoing infomercial rather than deal effectively with cited evidence of actual health problems suffered by the public due to wireless technologies.

Importantly, there was an admission by then [Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Mr Fletcher in response to a petition on 7th Dec 2020](#) that EME sensitivities exist and that there is a need to continue research, particularly for emerging technologies. So there is no definitive everything is perfectly safe scenario with 5G.

Here's an example of a can of worms that happened in the city of Malibu in the US and it is the shire's officials under fire for outbreak of fires, if you pardon the pun.

[*Despite Past Deadly Telecom Equipment Related Fires; Officials Didn't Require Mandated Safety Measures for 5G Permit Applications*](#)

Malibu City Officials Accused of 'Disturbing' Deceit Over 5G Fire Safety Measures

Malibu residents accused upper-level city staff of failing to enforce a city council mandate requiring T-Mobile, Verizon and AT&T to include safety-related engineering documents in their 5G infrastructure permit applications. The city has a history of devastating fires traced to malfunctioning telecom equipment.

[At Senate Commerce Hearing, Blumenthal Raises Concerns on 5G Wireless Technology's Potential Health Risks](#)

[The full video of Blumenthal's statement and exchange with industry representatives can be found here.](#)

Here's an article from an epidemiologist Prof John William Frank explaining the necessity of the Precautionary Principle to be applied regarding new emerging wireless technology.

[Electromagnetic fields, 5G and health: what about the precautionary principle?](#)

We digress, back to safety in Australia, this is serious stuff and it requires proper authorities to oversee the safety and well being of humans, animals and environment.

Is ARPANSA fit for purpose in terms of ensuring safe electromagnetic radiation levels? According to Barrister Ray Broomhall it is not and the organisation has admitted to not being suitable to provide medical advice.

[Australian Telcos Forced To Cancel 5G Rollout In Sydney this is a barrister's advice and is not light reading](#)

Our Australian government salivates at the bit and extols the economic virtues of 5G and expecting the safety issues to be covered by ARPANSA.

ARPANSA clearly states they will not be held liable for damages incurred by taking their advice, here's [a disclaimer on their website](#).

While we make every effort to ensure the information in this website is accurate and informative, the information cannot and does not take the place of professional or medical advice directly applicable to your own circumstances.

...We do not accept any liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred by use of or reliance on the information provided in our website.

Barrister Ray Broomhall opposing 5G also stated an interesting anecdote on a video that one expert that ARPANSA uses Dr Hocking, an Occupational Medicine specialist, formerly a Telstra CMO provided unbiased data informing company of a 60% increase in childhood leukaemia due to close proximity to EME emitting cell towers and was consequently sacked for his efforts that fell afoul to commercial interests.

'In a study in Sydney, Hocking et al. (1996) showed increased incidence and mortality rates of childhood leukaemia in the aggregate of three local authority areas close to a VHF-TV transmitter, compared to a number of areas further away.'

Hocking, B et al, Med J Aust 165(11-12):601-605, 1996 [Cancer incidence and mortality and proximity to TV towers](#)

<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/regulatory-publications/radiation-protection-series/codes-and-standards/rps3>

[5G Action Event Perth 1/2 - Raymond Broomhall & Greg Mellick](#)

According to [BioInitiative Working Group](#)* the 'safety' range in Australia is now one of the highest in the world and ...1000 times too lenient!

The [ARPANSA Standard](#) was introduced on 7 May 2002. ARPANSA did not include protection below 3000Hz which is where the leukaemia exposure risk is associated. The ARPANSA Standard is called Radiation Protection Standard 3 - Maximum Exposure Levels to Radiofrequency Fields — 3 kHz to 300 GHz'. 3kHz is 3000Hz.

The ARPANSA Standard does not offer any protection from ELF/EMF. ARPANSA has neglected to include ELF/EMF in its safety standard despite clear evidence that there was a consistent association between leukaemia and ELF magnetic field exposure.

Countries such as China, Russia, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Austria set the limit at 10 mW/m² or under, and in Sweden EMR exposure limits allowed near children is 4.5 mW/m², Australia's limit is 1,000 mW/m²!! We must ask ourselves why?

<https://www.stoptheballtower.org/research>

They subscribe to an outdated model that does not recognise – non-thermal biological effects and is not committed to taking a precautionary approach.

The ARPANSA 'safety' regulations on wireless technology radiation exposure limits have not been updated during the past two decades. They were developed before Wi-Fi was even invented!

Unfortunately, most of the current guidelines for EMF exposure around the world are based on evidence demonstrating whether there is a thermal effect. That's to say if the radiation is not sufficient to heat up body tissue it is deemed safe. This is pseudoscience and flagrant cherry picking of data.

In an article on the ARPANSA website, Dr Karipidis admits that the higher frequencies used in 5G will penetrate human tissue and acknowledges that there are gaps in this knowledge that require further research.

Prior to the rollout there was a 5th Asian and Oceanic IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP-5) which was held in Melbourne, Australia, May 20 – 23, 2018,

A Dr. Dariusz Leszczynski, Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry Division of Biochemistry and Biotechnology University of Helsinki, Finland, stated:

“there is a continuous talk about assuring that the 5G maintains low levels of EMF exposure. However, there is not sufficient scientific research to show what low levels assure no health effects in short- and long-term exposures (acute and chronic exposures). It seems that the telecom industry assumes that their low level exposures will not cause- never -any health effects and telecom industry forcefully imposes this scientifically unsupported assumption on others, especially governmental decision-makers. Mentioned above “realistic public exposure levels” and “low EMF levels” have no basis in scientific research on biological effects predominantly because such research has not been done.”

[Assumption of Safety for 5G by Government Agencies, No Science.](#)

To conclude 5G is not the panacea or way forward for information technology, its principle use is for military applications, not civilian communication needs that is being sold to us this way is disingenuous.

The military applications are too extensive to discuss here but I will refer you to a draft report by British engineer and inventor Mark Steel.

[Expert Report on \(5G\) Fifth Generation Direct Energy Radiation Emissions in Context of Nano metal contaminated Vaccines including COVID 19, Graphite, Ferrous Oxide Antenna's.](#)

The density of RF-EMF required for small cell to cell communication makes wireless technology potentially unsafe this is clear.

WIRED TECH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

You can review here why scientists are chiming in and creating groups of scientists for safe technology.

[Scientists For Wired Technology](#)

[Australians for Safe Technology](#)

[NEW REPORT: "Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks"](#)

['Re-Inventing Wires'—A Far Better Alternative to 4G LTE & 5G Wireless Antennas—The Commonwealth Club of California, February 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m](#)

We, the Collective want a halt/moratorium on all future 5G installations pending proper scientific studies on short term/long term exposure to RF-EMR as findings so far are showing potential to cause significant harms.

We want you to acknowledge that you lack awareness on who is responsible for any claims against the imposed technology if found to cause harm to humans, animals and the environment. Is the COS covered by liability insurance for damages caused by 5G tower emissions?

We want you to create a 5G working group to do proper due diligence before proceeding any further with rubber stamping 5G cell tower permits.

The consequences of getting this wrong are so far reaching it should outweigh any pressure you need to field from the Victorian, Federal government and stakeholder 5G investors

Yours sincerely

The Collective

Colac-Otways-Polwarth-Wannon