smart meters

What are the problems?

What to do before December 2017

Janobai Smith, BEc (Monash), Cert EMF Testing (ACES)

Advocacy and Policy Advisor - Stop Smart Meters Australia Inc

'A Green Life or a Green Lie?', Paterson, NSW, 28 October 2017

Electricity smart meters are also called

digital meters

"Smart meters, but at whose expense?" *December 24, 2012, The Age*

"The rollout has been riddled with cost blowouts, mismanagement claims and health and privacy concerns." *November 17, 2013, Herald Sun*

"Smart meters, dumb policy: the Victorian experience"
The Conversation, September 17, 2015

"Opposition energy spokesman David Southwick said the rollout of smart meters had been a disaster." *Herald Sun, August 19, 2017*

advanced meters

‘Smart’ digital meters do MORE than just measure electricity

They transmit and receive data 24/7

Average number of pulses per hour for 3G meters ranged from **129** to **176,201 pulses per hour**. *2015 Victorian technical study.*

Features of smart meters

- Data collected in 30-minute increments
- Allows for time-of-use pricing
- Facilitates future control of customer appliances
- Remote energisation and de-energisation
- Meter readers no longer required

Why are smart meters a problem?

cost of infrastructure

unexplained increases in electricity bills

Dutch scientists show smart meter readings can be 582% higher than actual consumption

privacy concerns

fire risk

SaskPower to remove 105,000 smart meters following fires
CBC News, July 30, 2014

PGE replacing 70,000 electricity meters because of fire risk
OregonLive, 2014

security of supply

Hackers gain entry into U.S., European energy sector, Symantec warns
Reuters, September 6, 2017

health effects

Possible health effects from smart meter emissions

Most frequently reported symptoms:

Insomnia
Headaches
Tinnitus
Fatigue
Cognitive disturbances

Also neuropathic pain, dizziness, heart palpitations, nausea etc.

Source: Lamech, F., 2014

Possible long-term health effects

?

Are smart meters dangerous to my health?

RADHAZ Consulting was commissioned by Ausgrid to measure the electromagnetic fields (EMFs) at one smart meter installation.

RADHAZ's report concluded that:

"... the measured EMFs arising from smart meter transmission was much less than that measured from other sources in the home, and that the total of all EMFs measured in the home was a very small fraction of the recommended exposure limits. Furthermore, under normal conditions, the meter transmits for only a few minutes a day – they do not transmit continuously."

Source of quote: NSW Government webpage 'FAQs on smart meters'

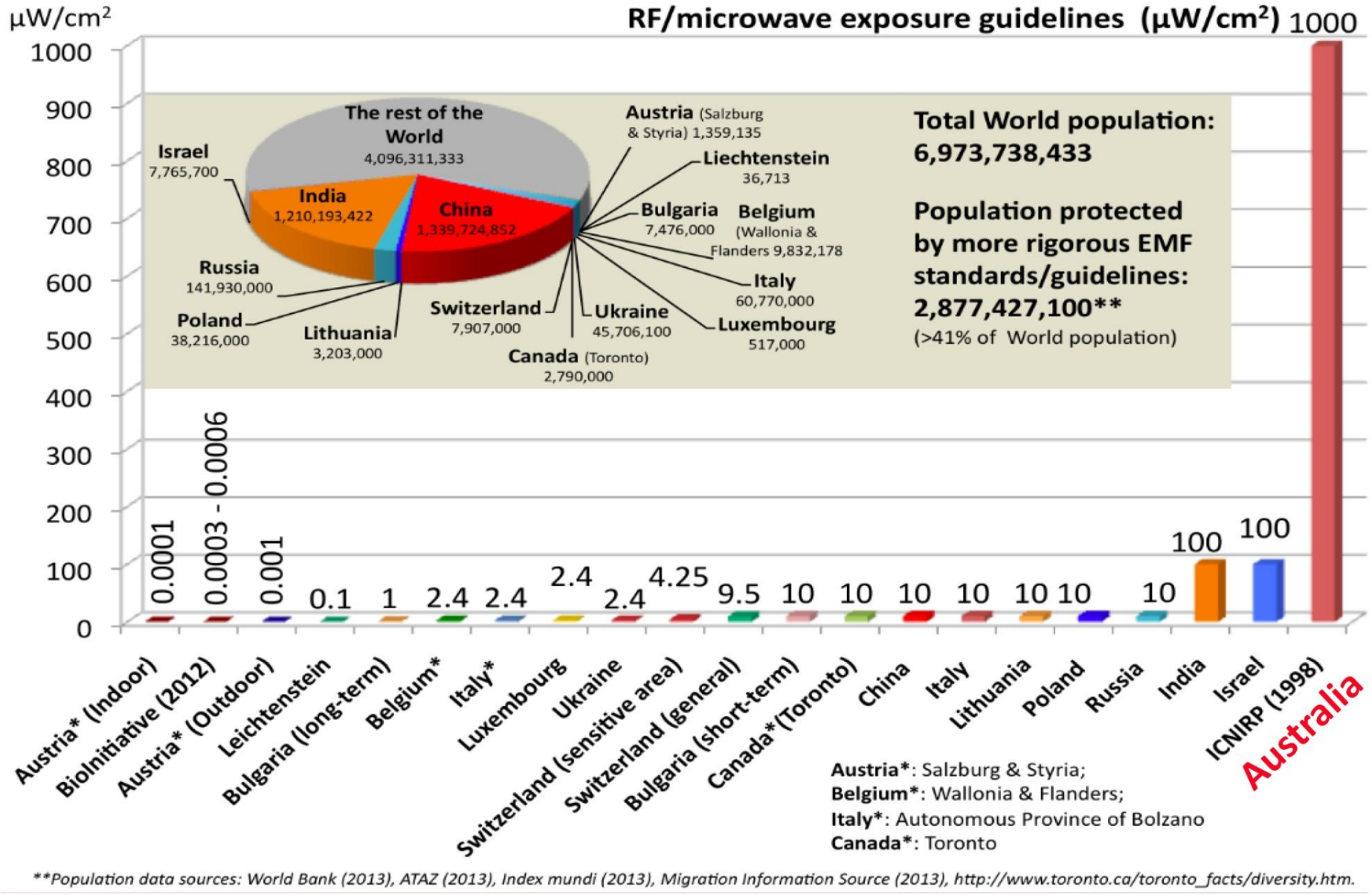
Under the new National Electricity Rule commencing December 2017 smart meters are a ONE-WAY street.

Smart meters impact on your right to choose the level of exposure to electromagnetic fields within your own home.

The Australian standard for radiofrequencies is based on ICNIRP's 1998 guidelines

"...over forty percent of the World's populations have exposure guidelines substantially more rigorous than those provided by ICNIRP."

Source: Dr I. Jamieson, 2014, RF / Microwave Radiation Risk Awareness (Abridged Version)



Source: Dr Isaac Jamieson, 2014, RF / Microwave Radiation Risk Awareness (Abridged Version)

Can I prevent a smart meter being installed?

The new National Electricity Rule states that:

Customers have the right to opt out of having their **existing working** meter replaced.

Retailers are required to give an initial notice in writing between 25 and 60 business days prior to a new meter deployment.

A second notice must also be given no later than 15 business days before the retailer proposes to replace the meter.

You may opt out by informing the retailer in writing, electronically, by telephone or by any other method specified by your retailer.

Can I opt out if I am getting a new meter?

The NSW Government's webpage says:

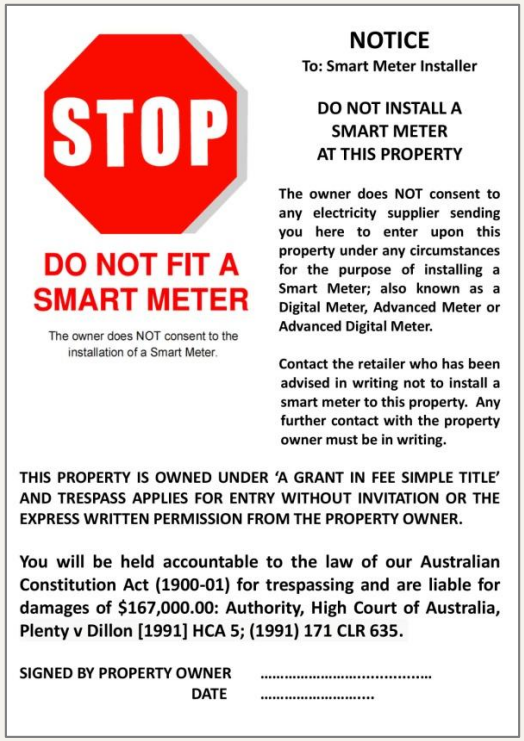
"... from 1 December 2017 all new meters installed must be smart meters."

Source: FAQs on smart meters, Resources and Energy webpage

However, what the NSW Government is not telling you, is that you still have the right to elect to be given a non-communicating smart meter ('type 4A') instead of a communicating smart meter ('type 4').

This right is LOST if you have not put in place notification of your refusal IN ADVANCE.

How do I notify my refusal of a communicating smart meter?



STOP

DO NOT FIT A SMART METER

The owner does NOT consent to the installation of a Smart Meter.

NOTICE

To: Smart Meter Installer

DO NOT INSTALL A SMART METER AT THIS PROPERTY

The owner does NOT consent to any electricity supplier sending you here to enter upon this property under any circumstances for the purpose of installing a Smart Meter; also known as a Digital Meter, Advanced Meter or Advanced Digital Meter.

Contact the retailer who has been advised in writing not to install a smart meter to this property. Any further contact with the property owner must be in writing.

THIS PROPERTY IS OWNED UNDER 'A GRANT IN FEE SIMPLE TITLE' AND TRESPASS APPLIES FOR ENTRY WITHOUT INVITATION OR THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER.

You will be held accountable to the law of our Australian Constitution Act (1900-01) for trespassing and are liable for damages of $167,000.00: Authority, High Court of Australia, Plenty v Dillon [1991] HCA 5; (1991) 171 CLR 635.

SIGNED BY PROPERTY OWNER .....

DATE .....

Refusal can be conveyed verbally, in writing or by conduct to your retailer, metering provider or metering coordinator.

Retailers and metering providers are required to pass on written notice of the refusal to the metering coordinator. The metering coordinator must retain record of the refusal for at least 7 years.

It is **essential** that you put in place your refusal **ASAP** as there is **NO requirement** for your retailer to give you advance notice if it is undertaking a **maintenance replacement** of meters.

Action plan (all customers)

1. Put up a **Do Not Fit a Smart Meter** sign
    a. Use A4 paper
    b. Sign and date
    c. Laminate
    d. Prominently display on your meter box or beside your meter
    e. Take a photo (with date stamp) so you have proof

2. Send a **letter of refusal** by registered mail to your electricity retailer.

What should I do if I already have a smart meter?

Before 1 December 2017:
Demand that it be removed and an accumulation meter reinstated.

Note, a digital interval meter is required if you are exporting solar energy to the grid in return for payment. Insist on a digital meter that does NOT have remote access capabilities.

After 1 December 2017:
The new national electricity rule does **not** set out a means by which you can revert to a non-communicating meter.

So what to do?

‘Shield’ the back of the meter?
Re-locate meter to a safer position?
Request the meter’s power to be ‘turned down’?
Request an external antenna mounted on roof fascia?
Arrange for disconnection of supply and removal of your meter and then re-apply?

Tell your neighbours, friends and family about smart meters!

Analysis by physicist Dr. Ronald Powell shows that the radiofrequency power density from a smart meter does not drop down to the level of exposure limits proposed by the *BioInitiative 2012 Report* until distances of *180 to 200 metres* from a smart meter are reached.

Source: Powell R., 2013, p. 12.

Go to www.stopsmartmeters.com.au for more information!

Janobai Smith BEc (Monash), Cert EMF Studies (ACES)
Advocacy and Policy Advisor
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