

2024 Regional Telecommunications Review

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

To Whom it May Concern,

Since 2020, I've been dealing with a variety of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe, that I never experienced before. It took me nearly two years to connect the dots with the new mobile phone towers installed across Australia. Having lived most of my life in rural and regional areas with minimal exposure to non-native EMF, when visiting the closest city to where we lived, I found myself almost disabled by frequencies being emitted in the more built-up areas. I could no longer stay in urban areas for more than a few hours without serious complications, most of which are symptoms which align with what is referred to as Microwave Syndrome.[1]

Upon moving to the east coast of Australia in 2022, my condition worsened dramatically. The increased population density on this side of the country means more towers, exacerbating my symptoms. I've spoken with numerous individuals—friends, family, and strangers online—who, like me, lived rurally for years only to develop severe health issues with the installation of this new technology. Sadly, many rural residents remain unaware of these issues, struggling without answers as their health deteriorates.

One of the tallest towers near me, [REDACTED], has recently been upgraded to emit frequencies over 19 GHz. This upgrade is not only unnecessary but also poses significant danger, especially considering the tower's central location within a residential area. To put this into context, I begin experiencing symptoms at distances as far as 300 meters from towers emitting just 2.8 GHz. While the short-term effects are concerning, my primary concern lies in the long-term impacts. I can't even fathom what those living right under a tower emitting 19GHz are going to be experiencing now and in the future.

In 2018, the NTP published a final report from its US\$30 million laboratory research, highlighting "clear evidence" that lifelong exposure to low-level RF radiation caused cancers

in rats. Even GSM- and CDMA-modulated 900-MHz RF radiation (much lower than 19 GHz) led to malignant schwannoma, a rare tumor type. Despite these findings, subsequent studies have been halted, and voices from affected communities are often silenced. This lack of transparency is deeply concerning, as it subjects nearly 100% of Australians to a massive health experiment without proper protocol. Globally, billions of people, from youth to elderly, face unnecessary exposure to human-made wireless RF radiation.[2]

Today, due to increased tower installations near my home—where I originally moved seeking safety—I'm forced to sleep in my shed to minimize exposure. I've been spending thousands monthly on my health and can only work limited hours from home, receiving little response from authorities like ACME and other governmental bodies when sharing concerns. My urgent plea is for a reduction in frequencies across Australia to 2.6 GHz or less until further studies fully grasp the implications of microwave-range frequencies. Adequate protective measures, such as underground cabling, must also be prioritised to safeguard public health from long-term exposure.

In conclusion, the severe health impacts I've experienced since the installation of high-frequency mobile phone towers are not isolated incidents. They represent a widespread and urgent public health crisis affecting countless Australians – many of whom I have started to collect a database of. The evidence, from personal testimonies to scientific studies, underscores the critical need for immediate action. I implore the government, and those reading these responses, to prioritise the well-being of its citizens, and your fellow Australians, by implementing stringent regulations, reducing frequencies to safer levels, and investing in protective measures like underground cabling. The time for action is now – not in 10 years like so often the case with these types of things – before more lives are irreversibly impacted by unchecked exposure to harmful electromagnetic radiation.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Doherty

[1] Carpenter DO. The microwave syndrome or electro-hypersensitivity: historical background. *Rev Environ Health*. 2015;30(4):217-22. doi: 10.1515/reveh-2015-0016. PMID: 26556835.

[2] J. C. Lin, "Follow-Up Research on NTP's Clear Evidence on RF Causing Malignant Tumors in Rats [Health Matters]," in *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, vol. 25, no. 6, pp. 16-18, June 2024, doi: 10.1109/MMM.2024.3378608.