



PO Box 4721  
Sylvania Waters NSW 2224  
[www.emraustralia.com.au](http://www.emraustralia.com.au)  
02 9576 1772  
ABN: 82 104 370 658

2021 Regional Telecommunications Review Secretariat  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

24 September 2021

Dear Secretariat

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment for this review and I wish to raise the following issues for the Committee's consideration.

How did the use of digital services change for regional consumers and businesses during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic? What insights for future service delivery does this provide?

Covid lockdowns meant that many children 'attended' school and connected with their friends and family online and this required them to spend long periods of time using digital devices. The use of wireless digital devices for long periods of time has exposed children to more radiofrequency radiation than ever.

There is a need for households to have access to non-wireless devices and networks so that they can connect with others without exposure to this radiation if they choose.

This must be a matter of priority for the Committee.

To what extent will new technologies enable significant change to the delivery of telecommunications services in regional Australia over the next 5-10 years? Are there any barriers to accessing these technologies?

One of the new technologies under discussion is the Internet of Things (IoT). While the Issues Paper considers the practical applications of the IoT, it does not consider the health impacts of the 5G technology that would be required for this.

The health effects of this technology have not been adequately explored, it has not been demonstrated to be safe and many international experts have called for a moratorium on its rollout until it has been demonstrated to be so.

Over 240 scientists from 42 nations have called on the WHO and UN to address this problem. They wrote,

‘Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.

These findings justify our appeal to the United Nations (UN) and, all member States in the world, to encourage the World Health Organization (WHO) to exert strong leadership in fostering the development of more protective EMF guidelines, encouraging precautionary measures, and educating the public about health risks, particularly risk to children and fetal development.’

International Appeal - <https://www.emfscientist.org/index.php/emf-scientist-appeal>

Further, compliance with Australian standards does not guarantee safety as those standards have been designed to protect against the short-term, heating effects of radiation and not the long-term biological effects that are of concern.

It is premature to consider rolling out 5G IoT technologies in rural areas until this technology has been demonstrated to be safe.

How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?

There is a need for stakeholders with a range of expertise to be involved in decision-making. This includes expertise in the medical and biological effects of radiofrequency radiation.

It is important to achieve a balance of representation in these committees to ensure that communities are not railroaded by government and telecommunications industries.

How can regional consumers be better supported to identify, choose and use the best connectivity options for their circumstances, as well as to understand and use their consumer rights?

Consumers need to be provided with information about the emissions from all communications equipment. Packaging of mobile phones, tablets, modems and other digital devices must carry information to the effect that: This device emits radiofrequency radiation.

To what extent is public information on connectivity options, including predictive coverage data and speeds, sufficient to help regional customers make informed decisions? What other information is needed?

Information is needed on the health effects of radiation-emitting technologies.

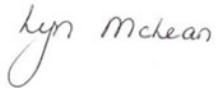
What other matters should the Committee consider in its review and why are they important?

The Committee needs to prioritise the safety and health of all users of technology. All wireless technologies emit radiofrequency radiation that has been classified as a Class 2B carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). There is a large body of scientific research showing harmful effects on the body other than cancer and some people, especially pregnant women, babies, children and the sick and elderly, are generally considered to be more at risk than others.

As a precautionary approach, many international authorities recommend reducing exposure to wireless radiation and utilising wired technologies instead. This is of particular importance for children and should be a priority of this Committee.

I thank you for your attention to these issues and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyn McLean".

Lyn McLean  
Director