

ARPANSA latest Information for the Australian Public on 5G Mobile Network titled: “Misinformation about Australia’s 5G network” released on 3 June 2019

<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/news/misinformation-about-australias-5g-network?fbclid=IwAR>

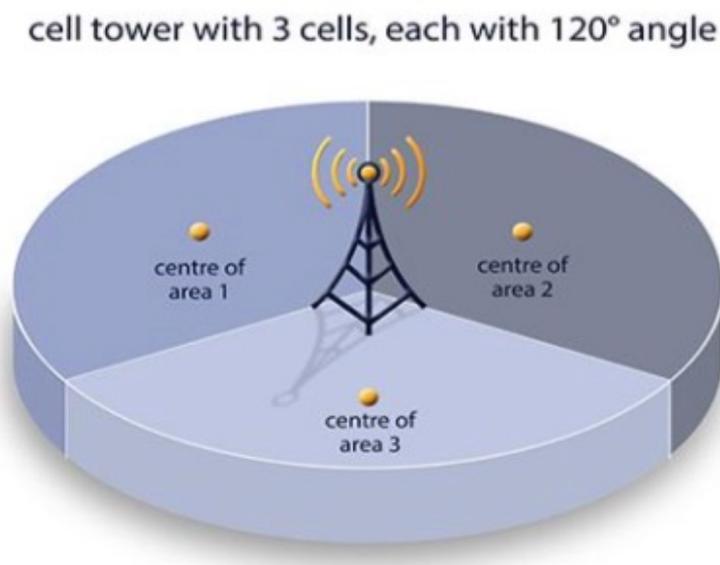
ARPANSA says:

“It is important to note that higher frequencies does not mean higher or more intense exposure.”

This sentence is factually (as well as grammatically) incorrect. Millimetre waves have much higher frequencies compared to those currently used microwaves for wireless communication and thus contain much higher photon energy. With the planned full deployment of the 5G network (second phase with millimetre waves) to include an extensive array of antennae (transmitters) much more closely installed to homes than current 3G, 4G antennae. This means that the exposure is going to be higher and more intense. Correspondingly, this large increase in base station numbers will undoubtedly increase the environmental radiofrequency man-made radiation in the background. At each base station they will need at least 3 more antennas to have a 360-degree coverage as shown in Figure 1 below¹.

It is important to note that Brussels has imposed a moratorium on 5G based on health risks, clearly objecting to the higher intensity of RF radiation exposure from 5G that would exceed their existing safety limits. ARPANSA’s “safety” limit is set very high (i.e. it is one of the least stringent of all standards used in the world), so for Australia, 5G is unlikely to exceed the ARPANSA standard. In fact, the ARPANSA RF standard is not a valid safety standard because it can only prevent short-term heating effects, not long-term or non-thermal biological effects.

Figure 1. Division in 3 cells of area around mast with 3 sectorial antennas.



Question for ARPANSA

ARPANSA, please explain how the power density levels are reduced as the current wireless technologies 3G, 4G will not be turned off with the advent of 5G but will add to the current RF man-made background. This is evident in environmental EME reports, which include predicted power levels provided by the industry for the proposed sites. ARPANSA should be doing a lot more in the area of background monitoring so that the public has access to the “before” and “after” power density measurements. Currently, apart from occasional spot checks, ARPANSA has no long-term monitoring program. On this basis, ARPANSA are not informed enough to make any statements about increased background levels.

ARPANSA says:

“Higher frequency radio waves are already used in security screening units at airports, police radar guns to check speed, remote sensors and in medicine and these uses have been thoroughly tested and found to have no negative impacts on human health.”

This spurious claim has not been substantiated. To make such a claim, ARPANSA must publish and make very clear a list of the “thoroughly tested” sources referred to in the statement, so as to clearly show the evidence of no harm to humans. A comprehensive set of scientific studies is needed, and no less than this is sufficient to support such a claim. Any member of the public reading the above statement would expect that ARPANSA has compiled such a list from human health studies. Such studies would need to have compared health effects on people who had been exposed to airport scanners, radar gun operators etc. with unexposed control human subjects. Furthermore, to make such evidence comparable to 5G exposures, the duration of exposures would need to be months, not minutes or hours. Screening at airports only creates intermittent exposures. In contrast, the proposed 5G will be widespread exposure 24/7. Using such analogies as ARPANSA has done is both disingenuous and dangerous.

ARPANSA says:

“Our scientists conduct research and work with the international radiation science community to set standards and guidelines on radiation in Australia.”

ARPANSA, please provide the list of peer-reviewed scientific studies conducted by ARPANSA investigating RF radiation exposure and human health. In particular, please provide the research papers that have been performed using the proposed 5G modulations. Otherwise, making the above claim without substantiating it would be clearly seen as an act of intentionally misleading the public.

ARPANSA says:

“We work independently from other parts of government and are not funded by industry.”

ARPANSA, please explain to the Australian public how this claim of independence from other parts of government and the industry is warranted. This claim is contradicted by the following factors suggesting that APRANSA is in fact receiving money from industry, or is at least, quite closely associated with industry. Together these factors make the above statement false and/or misleading.

1. ARPANSA is reported to be a recipient of funding from the wireless industry via ACMA. This funding is a proportion of the annual \$1M levy that ACMA collects so as to investigate the health impact of RF radiation.
2. A proportion of these funds originating from the wireless industry has been passed onto to the International EMF Project at the WHO (see section 3.102 “World Health Organization Electromagnetic Field Project”)

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Completed_inquiries/1999-02/emr/report/c03#c03f16

3. The following parliamentary Hansard notes refer to funds which have originated from the wireless industry and which have passed via ACMA onto the WHO: *3.10 Funding for the whole program has been made available at the rate of \$1 million per year starting on 1 January 1997. Of the \$1 million, \$700,000 goes to the NHMRC for the research program and the remaining \$300,000 covers the involvement in the WHO International EMF Project (\$US50,000 per year) and also the public information program (\$131,000 spent by June 2000).*
4. The above Hansard notes also reveal that a proportion of the ACMA funds have been allocated to a “public information program”. In effect, the information that has been provided to the Australian public by ARPANSA (regarding the safety of wireless radiation) is at least partially funded by the wireless industry. ARPANSA, please verify that these annual industry funds for “the public information program” regarding RF-EMR and health have been received. If so, please indicate what information program has resulted from such funds.
5. ARPANSA, ACMA and the wireless industry are reported to work in partnership. The ACMA receives billions of dollars from the wireless industry from spectrum sales.

Summary: Altogether, ARPANSA’s claims give an impression that it employs scientists without conflicts of interests, who are across the research and are cautious in their approach. In contrast, ARPANSA’s claims seem more aligned with protecting the telecommunications industry and designed to reassure the public that there is no harm to be expected from 5G technologies. These claims are misleading to the public and safety cannot be assured, as there has been no research conducted on this technology in relation to public health or the wider environment.

Abdication of responsibility and misleading the public is out of order with the Act of Parliament that governs ARPANSA's actions. The Act requires ARPANSA to work for the protection of the Australian public. ARPANSA is asked to act accordingly by raising awareness of the potential harm of 5G as well as other existing man-made sources of wireless radiation, and to conduct honest research into health effects of high frequency waves from long-term exposures.

Reference.

- 1, Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications. Study of 12 September 2018 on the impact of the radiation standards in Brussels on the deployment of mobile networks

<https://www.bipt.be/en/operators/radio/antennas-site-sharing/study-of-12-september-2018-on-the-impact-of-the-radiation-standards-in-brussels-on-the-deployment-of-mobile-networks>