



**Australian Government**  
**Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council**

28 March 2018

Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, CEO  
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency  
619 Lower Plenty Road  
YALLAMBIE VIC 3085

**RE: National electromagnetic energy (EME) Program**

Dear Dr Larsson

I am writing on behalf of the Radiation Health Safety and Advisory Council ("Council") with regard to the Australian Government's EME program, funded through the Department of Communications and the Arts.

The EME program is an initiative that recognises there is public concern about the health effects of EME, and the need to ensure that public health policies and advice are based on the best available scientific information.

Council notes the ongoing concerns that ARPANSA has around sustainability of the program due to lack of funding changes since the program's commencement in 1997.

Council also notes that telecommunication and other wireless technology has radically changed and continues to change since the EME program's commencement, only increasing the profile and importance of this work.

The *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (the Act) establishes the Council and its functions. I note that section 20 of the Act states the Council's functions as: (a) to identify emerging issues relating to radiation protection and nuclear safety and advise the CEO on them; (b) to examine matters of major concern to the community in relation to radiation protection and nuclear safety and to advise the CEO on them.

Council is of the view that the ongoing viability of the EME program, and particularly ARPANSA involvement in this field of work is critical to ensure that the community can have confidence in the safe use of these technologies, in particular at a time when the '5G' technology is rapidly introduced in Australia.

On behalf of Council, please accept this letter as a strong endorsement to continue pursuing with relevant stakeholders for the increase of funding, to ensure the ongoing viability of the program.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Allison', written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Dr Roger Allison**  
Chair, Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council