

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019



Email: Local Government/Council CEO/General Managers

**RE: 4G/5G Mobile Telecommunications**

I am writing from the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA), the representative body for Australia's mobile telecommunications industry, regarding current and future generations of mobile telecommunications.

At present Australian mobile networks and devices operate mainly on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation (3G and 4G) technologies. The 5<sup>th</sup> generation of mobile (5G) commenced operation this year in partnership with 4G networks.

5G is attracting a lot of attention in the community, at all levels of Government and in most industries given the central role mobile telecommunication services and applications play in our personal and professional lives.

National and State Governments can see the GDP implications, Local Government and most industries are primed for major productivity and connectivity gains and consumers are equally anticipating 5G supporting a vast array of new applications and services.

Like all new mobile technologies the evolution begins quite slowly and develops as more applications, services and devices become available. In this regard 5G is no different, however, ultimately 5G will be very different particularly in relation to industrial uses and is seen as central to the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0 era.

To deliver 5G and meet the ever-increasing demand for mobile data (forecast to increase nearly 400% to 2024), mobile carriers are investing in new mobile infrastructure – both new physical network equipment and new radiofrequency spectrum bands.

**In some cases members of the community have expressed concerns in relation to 5G infrastructure from a health and safety perspective – particularly regarding electromagnetic energy (EME).**

**As an industry we rely on the science and research in relation to any issues concerning health and safety and mobile networks, and it's this body of established science that supports the global and national standards that determine operating levels for all mobile networks in Australia.**

**The general conclusion from the World Health Organisation is - *"Despite extensive research, to date there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to low level electromagnetic fields is harmful to human health."***

The attached publication "**5G and EMF Explained**" outlines 5G and includes a series of responses to common questions regarding safety. In addition, the following links provide further insights:

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- The **Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)**, sets the Australian standards around 5G network limits, based on global scientific research and they have released two statements around 5G which may be of interest:
  - [5G: the new generation of the mobile phone network and health](#)
  - [Misinformation about Australia's 5G network](#)
- The **Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)** has more [information on small cells](#) and how their use will be expanded from working with the 4G network to become a key part of the 5G network
- **AMTA and global industry bodies** run a [EMF explained](#) website to provide the latest research and statements from leading health authorities, including the World Health Organisation.
- The **Australian Science Media Centre** recently held a panel with leading scientists to [dispel some of the health myths around 5G](#)

More recently further comment regarding 5G misinformation has been provided by [Dr Karl Kruszelnicki](#) and the [ABC Media Watch program](#).

In addition, the attached AMTA fact sheets provide a summary of key information in relation to 5G.

I invite you to draw upon the extensive information available to inform public confidence in the health and safety around all mobile networks.

We are sharing these fact sheets with all Councils Australia wide and are happy for you to share in your Newsletters.

I hope you find this information useful and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have further questions that you'd like to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Althaus  
AMTA  
**Chief Executive**