

SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XQMD-7

Name

Alexandra Sabapathy

State or Territory

New South Wales

Areas of Interest

Decision making; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation;

Attachment provided

Yes

Do you give permission for your submission to be published?

Yes - with my name and/or organisation (if included)

SUBMISSION RESPONSES

This submission was provided as an attachment only. The attachment is provided on the following pages of this document.

Alexandra Sabapathy



Dear Professor Samuel and Independent Review Panel,

I would like to make a submission into the 2019-2020 Independent Review of the EPBC Act. This submission will cover the following:

- How I believe the EPBC Act fails to protect the environment, especially in matters of national environmental significance
- The lack of community consultation under the current Act
- What needs to change to ensure the EPBC Act works as it was intended

I'm a mother who is concerned for the future of my child in their natural environment. I live in the Blue Mountains, surrounded by beautiful national parks. As our young family is developing, we enjoy sharing our home with wildlife in surrounding national parks. I am a member of and make regular donations to various environmental conservation organisations. I enjoy reading the latest scientific articles and research papers that these organisations share. Lately I've been coming across many alarming studies concerning wireless technology and the environment.

Therefore, I am concerned about any possible negative impact on healthy biodiversity in my local area.

One of the serious impacts is that of wireless technology on flora and fauna. More specifically, the impact of Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) and Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMF), which scientific evidence and the observations of ethno-botanists and biologists indicate to be negative. For example,

- RF-EMF has a significant effect on development and reproduction of birds and insects.(1) Devastating the fabric of the continuity of the World Heritage places like Mt. Nardi. (2)
- Evidence demonstrates bees' avoidance of a wireless apparatus and measures a bee colonies' strength in relation to the intensity of the electromagnetism field (EMF) surrounding them. (3)
- Current evidence indicates that exposure at levels found in urban areas and near base stations in natural areas may alter the receptor organs in migratory birds and insects, inhibiting their capacity to orient in the magnetic field of the earth. (4)
- In many cases omnipresent electromagnetic pollution is much stronger than any natural sources of electromagnetic fields or radiation, and there is no clear and definitive evidence of its influence on humans. Yet extremely low

frequency electromagnetic fields are already classified as potentially carcinogenic. (5)

I would like to propose the following recommendations and precautions in response to this potentially negative impact:

- Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) should be recognized as a pollutant.
- Laws should be enacted to protect urban flora and fauna from EMR.
- Protected areas should be instituted with no cell towers.
- Regular independent auditing should be performed of EMR/RF in urban localities – schools, hospitals, residential, recreational and ecologically sensitive areas.
- The installation of mobile towers should be controlled near wildlife protected areas, breeding areas, bee colonies, zoos. Scientific studies should be used to determine appropriate distances from tower structures as part of pre-installation review.
- A new National Environment Act should be enacted that enshrines Federal Government leadership over nature protections, containing real safeguards against extinction, including ending the destruction of endangered species habitat, and setting out clear rights of appeal and consultation for communities.
- An independent Environment Protection Agency should be established to act as watch-dog over government, and ensure laws are properly enforced.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission. If you wish to contact me about the contents I can be reached at:



Sincerely,

Alexandra Sabapathy

References

1. Cucurachi, C., et al. [“A review of the ecological effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields \(RF-EMF\).”](#) *Environment International* 51 (2013): 116–40.
2. the Mount Nardi report <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Mt-Nardi-Wildlife-Report-to-UNESCO-FINAL.pdf>
comprehensive study on wireless effects on Australian wildlife exodus.

3. Cammaerts, Marie-Claire. [“Is electromagnetism one of the causes of the CCD? A work plan for testing this hypothesis.”](#) *Journal of Behavior* 2.1 (2017): 1006.
4. Balmori, Alfonso. [“Anthropogenic radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as an emerging threat to wildlife orientation.”](#) *Science of The Total Environment* 518–519 (2015): 58–60.
5. Redlarski, Grzegorz, et al. [“The influence of electromagnetic pollution on living organisms: historical trends and forecasting changes.”](#) *BioMed Research International* 2015.234098 (2015).

RESEARCH STUDIES AND REPORTS

- Thielens et al., [“Exposure of Insects to Radio-Frequency Electromagnetic Fields from 2 to 120 GHz”](#) Scientific Reports volume 8, Article number: 3924 (2018)
- Thielens, A., Greco, M.K., Verloock, L. *et al.* [Radio-Frequency Electromagnetic Field Exposure of Western Honey Bees.](#) *Sci Rep* **10**, 461 (2020) doi:10.1038/s41598-019-56948-0
- [Shepherd](#) et al., [Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields impair the Cognitive and Motor Abilities of Honey Bees](#), Scientific Reports volume 8, Article number: 7932 (2018)
- Richard Odemer, Franziska Odemer, [Effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation \(RF-EMF\) on honey bee queen development and mating success](#)