

Electric and Magnetic Fields

At ElectraNet, we follow good industry practice of acting prudently in the planning and siting of new electrical infrastructure within the community.



Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) are invisible forces produced by the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electric power. They are found near electrical infrastructure, wiring in homes and offices, electric clocks, computers, hair dryers, electric blankets and any other devices that use electricity. They are not unique to ElectraNet's transmission lines.

The question of the possible adverse health effects of electric and magnetic fields continues to be an environmental and occupational health and safety issue for the electricity supply industry throughout the world. Considerable international research effort over 25 years has been undertaken in an attempt to resolve many of the scientific uncertainties surrounding the health effects issue.

In the management of this issue, ElectraNet is guided by the findings of independent authoritative scientific and medical reviews, which evaluate all the research findings. Many reviews have been published worldwide. None have concluded that EMFs cause or contribute to adverse health effects. ElectraNet continues to closely monitor all aspects of research into the EMF issue.

In Australia, the national body charged with the responsibility for developing safety standards for electric and magnetic fields is the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, an agency of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency says the results of all EMF studies to date have indicated either no association or a weak association between EMF and adverse health effects. It says association does not mean causation.

Throughout the planning and development of new electrical infrastructure within the community, ElectraNet follows good industry practice of acting prudently. This includes avoiding locating transmission lines near homes, schools and community facilities where possible.

For more information, please refer to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency website: www.arpansa.gov.au or the World Health Organisation website: www.who.int/peh-emf