

From: s22

Sent: Monday, 9 December 2019 3:36 PM

To: s47F

Cc: s22

SHAW, Gillian

<Gillian.Shaw@Protected.Health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Joint media release - Fletcher - Colbeck - New program to address EME concerns
[SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi s47F

Following your previous request please find attached a draft joint media release on EME.

I understand that the Department of Communications and the Arts have provided the attached version to Minister Fletcher, and that his office should be in touch with you shortly to progress this. However I would be grateful if you could reach out to his office if you haven't yet heard from them on this matter.

Please let me know if you would like us to do anything further.

Kind regards,

s22

Regulatory Policy Branch | Office of Health Protection
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601



THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP
Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts

SENATOR THE HON RICHARD COLBECK
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians
Minister for Youth and Sport

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

XX December 2019

New program to address community concerns about EME

The Morrison Government will invest \$9 million over four years to deliver an enhanced research and public awareness program on the safety of electromagnetic energy (EME) emissions from telecommunications equipment.

There is a long-standing EME program in place, but it has not kept pace with community concerns that have emerged. The additional funding will enhance the EME program so the concerns raised about emerging telecommunications technologies, like 5G, can be addressed.

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP said that the Government recognised that there was significant community interest in being satisfied that rigorous safety standards are in place.

“We know that the low levels of EME from telecommunications facilities are safe, particularly given how closely regulated they are in Australia, but we are aware that there is still some misinformation being spread to the community that is contributing to increased concerns,” Minister Fletcher said.

“The enhanced EME program will make sure all Australians have access to clear, reliable and reputable information so they can take advantage of new technologies like 5G – and feel empowered to do so safely.”

Under the enhanced program there will be:

- Additional funding for research, with particular focus on funding for targeted research, including research on the use of higher frequencies;
- More environmental measurement studies of EME in the community; and
- More information for, and engagement with, the public about the safety and regulation of EME.

“We are committed to building on many decades’ worth of research around EME to make sure Australians remain confident in the safety of telecommunications equipment and the rigorous regulatory standards adhered to,” Minister Colbeck said.

Commented [A1]: Note for MO: We understand Minister Colbeck would potentially be interested in being involved with this announcement

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The additional funding will also allow ARPANSA to upgrade its equipment, and to enhance its role in [science-based international engagement](#) and facilitating research.

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For more information about EME visit: www.communications.gov.au/EME

END

Media contacts:

Minister Fletcher: Brad Hatch | 0448 162 679 | Brad.Hatch@communications.gov.au

Minister Colbeck: Name | Number | [Email](#)

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