

Testimony at the Hills Shire Council conciliatory hearing - Maraylya residents Vs. NBN Co., 22 February 2017.

I am Priyanka Bandara, supporting this community in their objection to wireless NBN broadband and instead demanding a wired internet service – safe wired internet - all the way to homes and all the way to computers. Before I address the health risks associated with exposure to wireless radiation, let me give you a brief introduction to myself. I am a former academic clinical and basic researcher at Westmead and RPA hospitals and the University of Syd faculty of medicine, and I also served as a senior manager in the NSW health system. I work independently now, mostly on a *pro bono* charitable basis to protect public health from preventable diseases caused by man-made toxins polluting our environment. I am an expert to address the issue of cell damage caused by wireless radiation. I am one of the 224 scientists from 41 nations who have petitioned the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO) urging measures to protect public health from wireless radiation. Other Australian signatories include former long-serving Chief Medical Officer of Telstra, Dr. Bruce Hocking, leading neurosurgeon and Australian of the Year 2012 Dr. Charlie Teo, and a former President of the Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology Dr. Peter French.

I know that we all love the convenience of mobile and wireless communication, BUT, we also need to know the inconvenient truth. Wireless communication blankets our environment with artificial man-made microwave radiation that penetrates our bodies – and our children's. Yes, it is the same form of radiation that we use to cook food in microwave ovens - we use high intensity microwave radiation for cooking and low intensity for communication. Current “safety” standards depend on an obsolete notion – that if there is no tissue heating, there is no damage. The scientific evidence shows us that this is a false assumption risking public health. Low intensity microwaves disturb and damage living cells in our bodies and lead to adverse health effects. This can be a whole host of ailments – from mental disease, to cancer. Most concerning are the effects on the developing brains of children.

Today, I am not going to elaborate on my opinion. Instead I am going to read out some warnings given by highly reputable medical and scientific organisations. I have compiled them in this document for your benefit – including those who represent the industry rejecting health effects. I earnestly ask all of you to read them and do a bit of research with an open mind. I would like to quote the American Academy of Environmental Medicine that states: *“The fact that RF exposure causes neurological damage has been documented repeatedly. Increased blood-brain barrier permeability and oxidative damage, which are associated with brain cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, have been found”*. The European Academy for Environmental Medicine states: *“Studies, empirical observations, and patient reports clearly indicate interactions between EMF exposure and health problems. Individual susceptibility and environmental factors are frequently neglected. New wireless technologies and applications have been*

introduced without any certainty about their health effects, raising new challenges for medicine and society.” And the Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection states: “the following health hazards are likely to be faced by the children mobile phone users in the nearest future: disruption of memory, decline of attention, diminishing learning and cognitive abilities, increased irritability, sleep problems, increase in sensitivity to the stress, increased epileptic readiness” And they list expected remote health risks as brain and nerve tumours , Alzheimer’s disease, depressive syndrome, and other types of neurodegenerative diseases.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, Australia’s biggest health burden is from mental illness that is affecting even very young children. The number 1 cause of death for Australians between the age 15 and 44 years is suicide. There is an epidemic of neuro-behavioural disorders- autism and ADHD affecting young children while dementia is taking a huge toll on the older population. When we immerse our brains in this sea of microwave radiation, it is hardly surprising that we end up like this. This scientific knowledge is not entirely new. Let me quote the observations made by medical scientists at US Air Force who did early research on radar exposed people (which uses the same microwave carrier wave as WiFi): *“Assessing the biological effects, it was found that behavior was the most sensitive biological component to RF/MW irradiation”* (Radiofrequency Microwave Radiation Biological Effects and Safety Standards: A Review. US Air Force Materiel Command, New York, 1994, page 20). I can produce hundreds of scientific papers to support this claim and plead that we reduce RF/MW irradiation of people, but in a world driven by commercial interests, our authorities are not taking note - blinded by scientists with financial links to the industries that profit from these technologies. We surely can’t be proud of the silver medal Australia has earned for cancer – with the 2nd highest new cancer diagnosis rate in the world. It tells us one thing – that we have poor control over the causes. In my scientific opinion, wireless radiation is a major cause that has been neglected.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is up to each and every one of us to do our part and make a change to save humanity from this 21st century hidden disaster.

Dr. Priyanka Bandara PhD, 22 February 2017, presentation to the Hills Shire Council