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SP AusNet welcomes smart meter safety report

SP AusNet has welcomed the findings of the recent draft report by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) that concluded smart meters are safe and don't pose any greater safety risk than older electronic or electromechanical meters.

"Safety is SP AusNet's number one priority and this report endorses the safety of our smart meters and the installation work provided by our qualified technicians," SP AusNet spokesman, Lyall Johnson, said.

"There has been a lot of misinformation in the community recently about the safety of smart meters and this draft report, which provides consumers with information based on facts and evidence, dispels many of those myths.

"SP AusNet's smart meters comply with all relevant International and Australian Standards. Mandatory electrical safety testing is carried out by our installers prior to, and upon completion of, the smart meter installation process.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for being so cooperative with the installation process. It is clear many people are now realising the benefits of smart meters and the wider rollout."

Mr Johnson said all SP AusNet's meter installers are A-Grade qualified electricians or lineworkers, who have also completed a Victorian Government-accredited AMI training course before they are authorised to install meters.

"As a result, SP AusNet's customers can rest assured they are receiving a safe smart meter that is installed by a highly qualified installer," Mr Johnson said.

"Since 2009, smart meter installers have uncovered thousands of existing faults and other defects within customers' electrical wiring. In most cases, this has been the first indication that an electrical safety issue existed in their home or small business."

SP AusNet's smart meters use a wireless signal to transmit data around four times a day for 10 seconds at a time. The signal is similar to a common radio or television signal and is only active during transmission.

Radiofrequency levels from a smart meter are lower than those produced by common household appliances including many mobile phones and baby monitors.

"Smart meters are helping us to think and act smarter. They give you more control over power consumption in your home. They will help modernise the electrical grid, saving electricity and energy for everyone," Mr Johnson said.

Consumers with questions are encouraged to call our Customer Service Centre on 1300 360 795. Our CSC can provide them with a wealth of factual information related to the rollout.

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