



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Country Coalition MPs desert people on Telstra sale – Windsor

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has accused Country Coalition Members of Parliament of deserting their constituents by agreeing to the full sale of Telstra.

Mr Windsor said it was obvious that the National Party in particular but also the Country Liberal members were more interested in the cash and short term political gain than long term access at affordable prices to telecommunications services.

“The only future proofing that country people want is for Telstra to remain in majority Government ownership

There is no way that any government can guarantee service levels in the future,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor referred to an answer given by the Prime Minister to a question from him relating to the constitutional ability of one Parliament to bind another in which the Prime Minister stated, “We should always operate under the assumption that a law passed by one Parliament can always be repealed by another Parliament and I would not try and pretend otherwise”

Mr Windsor said that only one country MP stood up in the briefing on the sale of Telstra and spoke against the sale.

“I can’t believe which planet some of these people are living on.

This is a classic case of where country people do require a Senate that has regard for their future.

I will be doing all I can to encourage the Senate to oppose the sale,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor points to the promise that the Government will fund an extra 100 CDMA towers across Australia saying it is insignificant when one looks at the scale of the problems.

“The New England electorate alone requires about 20 new CDMA towers – that doesn’t leave many to go across the rest of electorates of country Australia,” Mr Windsor said.