



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Independents Deliver Real Regional Future Proofing 51% Government Stake In Telstra Retained

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, offered his congratulations to both the Independent Members of the Senate and the Green and Democrat parties as well as the ALP in the Senate on the defeat of the Government's latest attempt to sell Telstra.

Mr Windsor said, "The Senate has shown a principled stand in refusing government overtures aimed at pushing the sale of the remaining 51% Government stake in Telstra."

"The polling results from many regional electorates has shown a clear rejection of the Government attempts to sell Telstra despite the Government's last minute attempts to cobble together a so called future proofing strategy."

"The blocking of attempts by this Government elected on less than 50% of the national vote to ignore objections to the sale by well over 80% of respondents in the thirteen polled regional electorates has proved the value of regional Independents, Senate Independents and the Senate minor parties."

Results of surveys

Bob Katter, Independent Member for Kennedy	95% opposed
Alby Schultz, Liberal Member for Hume	92% opposed
Peter Andren, Independent Member for Calare	96% opposed
Tony Windsor, Independent Member for New England	97% opposed
Dianne Kelly, National Member for Dawson	81% opposed
Christian Zahra, ALP Member for McMillan	86% opposed
Amalgamation of Australian Democrats survey within the Electorates of Herbert, Widebay, Maranoa, Fairfax, Fisher, Dawson, and Hinkler	77.81% opposed

Mr Windsor said he was delighted with the way in which country people have made their views heard and the way the Senate has responded to the country voice.

"If we ever needed an argument in favour of a Senate I think we have seen one today."

"The largest minority in Australia has had its voice heard in the Senate", concluded Mr Windsor.