



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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“There will be NO Telstra Sale” Meeting confirms Senate Cross Bench will stand firm

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is pleased that Senators on the Cross bench and Independents in the House of Representatives have confirmed their opposition to the full sale of Telstra is unchanged and will therefore again reject the Government’s Telstra Sale Bill reintroduced into the Parliament last week.

Speaking after a Media Conference that Mr Windsor convened in Parliament House with fellow House of Representatives Members, Peter Andren (Calare), Bob Katter (Kennedy) and Michael Organ (Greens) and Senators John Cherry (Democrats), Len Harris (One Nation) and with apologies offered by Independent Senators Brian Harradine and Shayne Murphy, Mr Windsor said,

“There will be NO sale of Telstra!”

“That was the message given again very clearly from those who hold the vital votes to protect the interests of the majority of Australians,” Mr Windsor said.

Senator Harradine, in an emailed apology to Mr Windsor stated “Let me make it perfectly clear, as I have done to the government and to the public: I am not prepared to vote for the full privatisation of Telstra. I do not intend to support any move that would see majority control pass from public hands to private hands ...”

Mr Windsor said that the consensus view was that communications was such a crucial piece of infrastructure for country Australians that it was critical that some degree of public ownership be maintained.

“There is a lack of trust in the regulatory mechanisms that the Government suggests would ensure service delivery into the future.

Our constitution states that one Government cannot bind future Governments in terms of policy.

Even the Prime Minister has admitted that,” Mr Windsor said.

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“How could a sale document be constructed that guarantees the delivery of services that haven’t been invented yet to country people?” Mr Windsor asked.

“Modern technology in communications could remove distance as a disadvantage for living in the country.

To maintain equity of access to new services, there would always be a need for the Australian people to maintain majority ownership through the Federal Government,” Mr Windsor said.