



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **National Party candidate reveals that he won't be representing the electorate**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor said today he was astonished to hear the National Party candidate for New England agree to the full sale of Telstra on Prime Television news last night.

"I have been inundated with calls from constituents angered by the National Party candidate's admission that he agrees with the full sale of Telstra on some vague proviso that services are 'up to scratch'.

Mr Khan avoids the difficult questions of how 'up to scratch' is to be defined and how 'up to scratch' is to be maintained under a private business as technology develops.

His comments reveal the poor understanding that Mr Khan has for the concerns held by the New England electorate.

These concerns have been made very clear through two surveys showing that over 90% of our people do not want Telstra fully sold.

Mr Khan has effectively signalled the electorate that he will not be seeking to change the Coalition held view that Telstra should be sold at the earliest they can win the numbers away from the Independents and Democrats.

Does this signal indicate that Mr Khan is in favour of a sale or that he lacks the confidence that a backbencher in a captive minor party such as the National Party can make any difference?

I'm amazed that he would make such comments when he is trying to convince people that he will represent their views in the Parliament and not just be a Party man bringing back the message from Canberra.

My experience of 13 years in political life has taught me that no issue is ever lost if the people genuinely support the outcome that you are pursuing as their Member," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor points to recent examples of outcomes won against the odds. These include the retention of Telstra, the Tingha MPS, the natural gas pipeline, Bundarra Aged Care Facility, 8 year Ethanol excise exemption and the retention of the Armidale passenger service. These victories for committed communities won against the odds, can be summed up as being due to listening to your people and never giving up.

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With statements on Telstra like this from Mr Khan and other National Party members, Mr Windsor believes that the National Party has become incapable of listening to the constituency and representing the best interests of country people.

In a range of surveys on Telstra taken by various MP's of different political persuasions, country people have clearly shown that they do not want Telstra sold. These include:

Alby Schultz	- Liberal Member for Hume	92% opposed to sale
Bob Katter	- Independent Member for Kennedy	95% opposed to sale
Peter Andren	- Independent Member for Calare	96% opposed to sale
Tony Windsor	- Independent Member for New England	97% opposed to sale
Deanne Kelly	- National Party Member for Dawson	81% opposed to sale
Christian Zahra	- Labor Member for McMillan	86% opposed to sale
Aust Democrats survey of Herbert, Widebay, Maranoa Fairfax, Fisher, Dawson and Hinkler		78% opposed to sale

“Mr Khan seems to be following the ‘Leadership’ displayed by his fellow National Party members Deanne Kelly and Ron Boswell.

Mrs Kelly made a laughing stock of herself in the Parliament where she said her correctly conducted survey suggested 81% of her electorate did not want Telstra sold.

The next day against the wishes of that 81%, Mrs Kelly along with the entire National Party voted to sell Telstra.

Senator Ron Boswell who represents the National Party in Queensland from his palatial residence overlooking the Royal Queensland Yacht Club at Manly on Moreton Bay (Brisbane) and who has never lived in the country has often said that communications in the country are up to scratch.

What a great indicator of his ability to listen to the people,” Mr Windsor said.

Keeping New England Independent will keep the view of the people of New England heard in the Parliament while those muzzled by their party allegiances must remain quiet even though their constituents are telling them loud and clear what they think and how they want them to vote on their behalf.

I will continue to represent the views of the New England electorate as relayed to me by the New England constituents.

This is a commitment party members are unable to offer having agreed to abide by the majority vote of the city based Liberals”, Mr Windsor said.