



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

13 May 2005

Nationals Senator-elect shows some leadership on Telstra

Member for New England, Tony Windsor has praised Queensland National Party Senator Elect, Barnaby Joyce, for his recent announcement that he will oppose the current Telstra Privatisation legislation when he enters the Parliament in July.

“I congratulate Barnaby Joyce for his recognition that country people do not want Telstra sold and his preparedness to stand up for those people.

“It is a breath of fresh air to see a National Party representative actually articulating the views of the people who elect them,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said this was in stark contrast to the diatribe that Nationals Leader, John Anderson, delivered to the Australian Telecommunications User Groups (ATUG) in Canberra yesterday morning.

“Mr Anderson made a range of assertions about competition delivering all for country Australians and that the role of Government was to step in only at the end of the chain where the commercial sector failed to deliver.

“This is not leadership in delivering services to country areas.

“This will only see people move from areas not receiving services to areas where competition is delivering services and thereby exacerbate population decline in smaller country towns rather than encouraging their growth to become attractive to a competitive market to move into,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Anderson also ruled out any consideration of a structural break-up of Telstra into retail and infrastructure sections.

“Mr Anderson suggested that the debate on structural break-up of Telstra was over and it would be too difficult to reopen a structural separation agenda.

“One must ask the question, why is it too difficult?” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also said that Mr Anderson made the admission at the ATUG conference that before a sale took place the “government would have to assess the current telecommunications infrastructure”.

“This extraordinary admission means that John Anderson and the Nationals have voted in the House of Representatives to sell Telstra without the full knowledge of the state of underground cabling and other infrastructure in country Australia.

“Let us hope that Barnaby Joyce delivers by way of his common sense, to this and other debates, something that has been sadly missing from the current bunch of Nationals,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868