



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**

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### **Anderson Telstra comments arrogant, ignorant and a failure to represent country people - Windsor**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has described comments made by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services John Anderson about the sale of Telstra as “arrogant, ignorant and a failure to represent country people”.

The comments made by Mr Anderson to the National Press Club last Wednesday included

- that he believes there is now an acceptance that the rest of Telstra will be sold,
- that it is time for a broad reassessment of the future telecommunication needs in rural Australia,
- that the logical first source to fund improvements should be money from any further sale of Telstra,
- that people do see the sale of Telstra as inevitable and
- that there's just a belief that it is going to happen.

“John Anderson made the comments to the National Press Club on Wednesday as Leader of the National Party – the party that purports to stick up for country people.

I attended the address too and whilst very disappointed with Mr Anderson's comments, I was not surprised as it reflects the contempt with which he holds the views of country people even commenting ‘I wouldn't kid myself that people are absolutely over the moon about it’..

The comments were arrogant, ignorant and a failure to represent country people in their efforts to access the same telecommunications services that are available to city people,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor pointed to the surveys carried out by not only himself but many others including National Party Members of Parliament that indicated strong community opposition to the full sale of Telstra.

“The three Independent Members of the Parliament, Peter Andren (Calare), Bob Katter (Kennedy) and I have all had overwhelming responses in both response size and anti-full sale sentiment.

De-Anne Kelly, the National Party Member for Dawson in her survey had over 80% of her constituents tell her that they were against the full sale of Telstra but still she persists in taking the message back to her country people that Telstra will be sold like it or not reflecting that once again the National Party had again lost the battle in having the voice of country people heard above the economic rationalists in the Cabinet.

Telecommunication services are essential for the future of country Australia and if we allow the full sale of Telstra to proceed, we are going to make it so much harder for future generations to compete in the global market with the blame to be clearly sheeted home to the National Party,” Mr Windsor said.

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