



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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### **Windsor warns National Party Ignore NSW Farmers' Telstra Survey at your peril !**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has warned the National Party that they can't afford to ignore the results of the NSW Farmers' Association Telecommunication Survey of 14 federal electorates.

"The results of the NSW Farmers' Association telecommunications survey indicate that 80% of respondents are still against the further sale of Telstra.

This response can't be ignored by the National Party – they can't gloss over. If they do it will be at their peril.

The National Party now has the spotlight firmly on them.

The action of the National Party on the full sale of Telstra will be a defining moment in their future.

Go against 80% of your constituents and see how long you last!

The National Party can either stand up for the 7 million country people they claim to represent or they can roll over and sentence those 7 million people to being the forgotten people in an age where telecommunications could provide country people with a competitive advantage in overcoming distance, smallness and remoteness – the things that have been holding back much development in country Australia.

The National Party can't keep voting against the overwhelming wishes of their people and then have the audacity to say that they are the only ones who truly represent them.

That's not representation – that's arrogant ruling of country people," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor congratulated the NSW Farmers' Association on their conducting of their survey.

"I congratulate the NSW Farmers' for their initiative and commitment to rural and regional Australia by conducting their telecommunications survey.

Mal Peters and his team have shown leadership and provided country people with an apolitical avenue to have their voices heard.

I'm sure that the NSW Farmers' Association has been under a lot of pressure to soften their approach to this important issue but they have stuck to their task and have proceeded without fear or favour

I hope that the National Farmers' Federation follow the NSW Farmers Association's lead and stop their soft shoe shuffle on this critical issue," Mr Windsor said.

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