



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

25 August 2005

Barnaby breaks hearts of country people and condemns Nats to irrelevance Country people will get their day

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has expressed his disappointment at the decision by Queensland National Party Senator Barnaby Joyce to agree to support the full sale of Telstra but says the Telstra fight has not concluded yet but only just begun and that the people will have their say.

“Now that people know that the National Party’s view is one of sell at any cost and their nonsense of not selling until Telstra is up to scratch has been exposed, there will be a number of opportunities to have the process reversed.” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said it was highly unlikely that Telstra would be totally sold prior to the next election due to the size of the share float so country people will have a chance to vote on the issue and make their views plainly known.

“I will be actively working to ensure that country people have the choice of voting for pro-country candidates at the next election rather than the Telstra sellout merchants in the National Party that currently exist,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that Senator Joyce has disappointed many country people and as a result will be seen as just another National Party hack doing the bidding of his Liberal Party masters in the country.

“In a short space of time, Senator Joyce has built up a following of country people hoping that at last they had found a voice – a representative who would rail against the system and truly stand up for them against being treated as second class citizens.

Senator Joyce has now broken the hearts of many country people and in doing so has condemned the National Party to total irrelevance in representing country people and will be now viewed suspiciously each time he proclaims his support for country people in what appears to be against the Party line and discipline demanded recently by the Prime Minister,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor had been prepared to give Senator Joyce the benefit of the doubt taking him at his word on the full sale of Telstra.

“Senator Joyce made all the right noises and despite my gut feel that he would eventually rollover as he has now done, I was prepared to accept that maybe, just maybe, I was wrong. I, like many other country Australians, thought that Senator Joyce had displayed enough strength of character to stand his ground and be a true representative of country people as his National Party always proclaim.

Well, how wrong I was and how wrong were the country people who were led to yards by the Judas goat of St George and then had the gate slammed shut behind us.

I’m sorry Senator Joyce, you look to blame others saying that if you didn’t agree to the bribe, someone else would have.

You say the Labor Party would have sold it and you say Democrat’s Senator Andrew Murray would have sold it too when both their Party policy’s on Telstra is NO sale.

And you also said new Family First Senator Stephen Fielding would have sold it too if you didn’t do the deal despite him having made no public commitment.

So Senator Joyce, it is your action and the action of your fellow National Party colleagues who have agreed to sell out the most important piece of infrastructure that would give country people an opportunity to compete equitably with the rest of the world and overcome the tyranny of distance, remoteness and smallness and in doing so you have condemned country Australians to irrelevance and therefore country Australians should return the favour and condemn the National Party to irrelevance at the next election,” Mr Windsor said.

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