



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Vaile fails to tell when he knew about Telstra's poor condition

The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party, Mark Vaile today failed to answer a question put to him in Parliament's Question Time by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor about when he became aware of the poor condition and underinvestment in infrastructure by Telstra as was told to the Prime Minister on August 11.

Mr Windsor asked the Deputy Prime Minister:

"In an interview on Meet the Press on Sunday August 14, the Deputy Prime Minister said about Telstra – "we are going to be seeking all sorts of expert advice on a number of different elements of the debate".

We now know that 'expert advice' was given to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Communication and the Minister for Finance at their meeting with Telstra CEO Mr Trujillo on Thursday 11th August.

When did the Deputy Prime Minister become aware of the Telstra CEO expert advice given to the Prime Minister and others on Thursday 11th August on the underinvestment in and poor state of Telstra's infrastructure?

Were you aware of this information before appearing on the Meet the Press program?

If not, why not when the Prime Minister was aware 3 days prior?

Mr Windsor said that the response from the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party was less than satisfactory.

"Mr Vaile danced around the issue referring to all sorts of statistics but did not directly answer when he knew or became aware of what the Prime Minister was told on August 11 in his meeting with the Telstra boss Mr Trujillo.

This lack of definitive answer to my question casts a shadow over how the Queensland National Party was able to arrive at their decision to support the sale and instruct their folk here for a fortnight, Barnaby Joyce that it was OK to support the full sale when he announced on August 25 to put him down for a yes. It begs a number of questions," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor would like answers to the following:

- **Was Mark Vaile in the meeting with the Prime Minister, Minister for Communication and Minister for Finance and the Telstra CEO Mr Trujillo?**
- If Mark Vaile was aware of the expert advice from this meeting, and he passed this information onto others in the National Party, is he guilty of an offence under the Stock Exchange Rules divulging privileged information?
- Did the Queensland National Party Management Committee have all the expert advice that they should have had to make an informed decision?
- Was the Queensland National Party Management Committee hoodwinked by the Liberals alone in not passing on Mr Trujillo's expert advice?
- Was Mark Vaile complicit in not informing the Queensland Nationals of the expert advice?
- Was Barnaby Joyce informed by Mark Vaile of the expert advice and
- was Senator Joyce therefore complicit in not informing the Queensland Nationals Management Committee of the expert advice or
- Were all of the above aware of the expert advice and the Queensland National Party Management Committee decided to accept the deal as hush money?

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