



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

11 September 2005

### **Windsor calls for full Telstra Inquiry and referendum on sale Barnaby conned by his own Leaders**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has today called for a full independent inquiry into Telstra and then a referendum on the full sale to coincide with the next Federal election in 2007.

“The people deserve to know the real facts and make a decision based on those facts.

Almost every day now, more and more details are coming out about what the Government knew about the parlous state of Telstra’s infrastructure and the manipulation of the financial markets to keep up the appearance of a Telstra not only delivering good services to consumers but also doing it at a great profit leading to high dividends being returned to its shareholders – in particular, the Government,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that Senator Barnaby Joyce has been conned by his own Leaders.

“Senator Joyce was told by his Federal National Party Leader Mark Vaile that all would be well and that’s when the \$2 billion figure was pulled out of the air before the Queensland National Party State Conference.

This was then supported by the new Queensland National Party President, Bruce Scott who is also the Federal Member for Maranoa and committed to selling Telstra having already voted twice to do so.

Senator Joyce trusted these two men, his Party leaders, not realising they were only interested in supporting their Liberal masters and sell off the ailing Telstra before they got lumbered with having to fix the problem by spending billions of dollars.

Barnaby was conned by his own Leaders, Messrs Vaile and Scott – messers being the operative word!” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that Senator Joyce is waking up to the old pea and thimble trick of his leaders and is correct in calling for an extension to the Inquiry process but wants Senator Joyce to go further and make it an Independent Inquiry either by beefing up the ASIC Inquiry or an ACCC Inquiry.

“Senator Joyce, to his credit is having his eyes opened to the underhanded dealings of Government in its zealous pursuit of selling Telstra.

His National Party Leader Mark Vaile knew the details of the honest appraisal by new Telstra CEO Sol Trujillo presented to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Nick Minchin and Communications Minister Helen Coonan on August 11 and has denied telling his party room those details so Mr Vaile has kept vital information from Senator Joyce to allow him to make an informed decision.

Everyone deserves to know the facts and then everyone can make a decision based on those facts.

The only way to do this is to have a full inquiry and then a referendum,” Mr Windsor said.

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