



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# NFF joins Telstra sellout queue What made them change their mind?

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has criticised the National Farmers Federation for their support of the Telstra sale Bills currently before the Parliament.

“For years the National Farmers Federation has been strong on their opposition to the full sale of Telstra arguing strongly for quality, affordable telecommunication services for farmers and rural communities now and into the future.

They have argued that telecommunications services are not up to scratch and even in the last week have been very critical of the Government’s zeal to sell the rest of Telstra.

So what’s happened to change their position?

How did the NFF come to its new position when surveys of farmers in NSW show widespread opposition to the sale and underinvestment in infrastructure?

What information has the NFF been privy to that the rest of the country has not had access to?

What was disclosed to them by the Minister for Communications that made them change their position?

Or has the National Farmers Federation through its President Peter Corrish just been mouthing the right rhetoric and looking like they are rattling the Government’s cage when all along they were going to join the Telstra sellout queue?

Has the NFF been threatened or coerced by Government members to get behind the full sale of Telstra – threatened with being left outside the Government tent on other issues of importance to them?  
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It's going to be interesting to see who from the National Farmers Federation puts their hand up at the next Federal election in 2007," Mr Windsor said.

NSW Farmers Survey indicates the following opposition to the full sale of Telstra in each Federal electorate in NSW.

Gwydir	81%
New England	75%
Parkes	88%
Riverina	85%
Hume	90%
Farrer	82%
Page	81%
Richmond	73%
Cowper	91%
Lyne	85%
Calare	72%
Eden/Monaro	73%
Gilmore	70%
Paterson	67%