



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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### Open Letter to National Farmers Federation and NSW Farmers Association RE: Telstra sale support

Dear Messrs Corish and Laurie

**Mr Corish**, as President of the National Farmers Federation, I would like you to point out where in the legislation the 'guarantees' you claim to have sought and received from the Government in regard to future pricing parity for both basic telephone and broadband services are and what these 'guarantees' really guarantee? What is the NFF's definition of "parity"?

The fact is the legislation does not guarantee what the NFF has said "We (the NFF) need 'enshrined' in legislation". There is no such "guarantee" in the legislation.

**Mr Laurie**, as President of the NSW Farmers Association, a group that has done much hard work to find out what farmers of NSW views were about the full sale of Telstra, I would ask you how within the space of a week your organisation was able to support the NFF's position and support the Telstra sale legislation despite your members giving clear riding instructions that they didn't want Telstra sold - regardless?

What information and guarantees were given to you and how did you check to see that these guarantees were enshrined in the legislation and not just Ministerial mouthings to get the legislation supported by umbrella groups speaking on behalf of the rural sector of Australia?

The simple question that one of you two gentlemen can answer is, (because nobody else can), where is the "enshrined" guarantee in the legislation?

I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours for the country

Tony Windsor MP  
Member for New England

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