



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Open Letter to Peter Corish – NFF President

I thank NFF President Mr Peter Corish for his response to my open letter to him 19th September.

Mr Corish's response although long winded does not answer my question.

I asked Mr Corish to point out where in the legislation the 'guarantees' he claimed to have sought and received from the Government in regard to future pricing parity for both basic telephone and broadband services were enshrined and what these 'guarantees' really guaranteed? And what is the NFF's definition of "parity"?

Mr Corish fails to direct readers to the part of the legislation where this future parity of both basic telephone and broadband services can be located for all to see.

The fact remains, 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.

The NFF has been involved in obtaining other guarantees over the years.

Remember the guarantees given to sugar farmers to be included in the US Free Trade Agreement – sold out.

Remember the guarantees given to water entitlement holders through COAG National Competition Policy to enshrine their water property rights in 1995 – sold out.

Remember the Fuel Sales Grant Scheme so that country people would not pay more for their fuel as a direct result of the introduction of the GST – sold out.

The truth Mr Corish is that there are no guarantees in the legislation that you asked Senator Joyce to support. The truth is Mr Corish, the NFF have sold out again!

Yours for the country

Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England

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