



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

Media Release

9 May 2007

Government abrogates telecommunication responsibilities to small and remote communities after full sale of Telstra

Telecommunications infrastructure development appears to be focussing on the continuation of the rollout of broadband however Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor believes that there are still areas of need that require Commonwealth Government input.

According to Mr Windsor, the Commonwealth Government is abrogating its responsibilities to smaller and remote communities in the provision of mobile phone services that are needed to keep these communities in the communication and technology loop.

“Some smaller and remote communities like Yetman and Legume in the New England electorate are missing out on telecommunication services that over 95% of the population now take for granted.

It appears from this budget that since Telstra has been sold off by the Government, the Government believes it no longer has a role in delivering services like mobile phone to small and remote communities despite them being just as entitled to have such a service.

The Government has taken an ‘all care – but no responsibility’ attitude since its sell off and despite all sorts of promises and guarantees that telecommunications services in the country would be ‘up-to-scratch’ and comparable to metropolitan services, there are still some small and remote communities that are being left to the devices of market forces and unfortunately they do not have the numbers to make it attractive for service providers to deliver that service.

The Government really must reassess how it can help these communities keep up with the developments of the 21st Century or will they just be left to fend for themselves?” Mr Windsor asked.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868