



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Government involvement in National Broadband Network welcomed

The announcement today that the Federal Government will take an ownership role in the establishment of the National Broadband Network has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor, who has been a strong proponent of maintaining Government involvement in telecommunications infrastructure and opposed the full sale of Telstra is pleased that the Federal Government is getting back into the delivery of telecommunication services particularly in country Australia.

“Telecommunication infrastructure is the railways of the 21st century.

It is the one thing that can negate the tyranny of distance, smallness and remoteness.

Faster and more widespread telecommunication services, particularly broadband services means that people can be anywhere and compete internationally in business as well as receive information on any subject or issue.

I opposed the full sale of Telstra as did over 80% of the people of the New England Electorate.

The myth that the previous Government perpetrated that competition would drive service delivery when it sold off Telstra has been shown to be just that – “a myth”.

I welcome the Federal Government’s decision to get back into the provision of infrastructure particularly in country Australia where competition has not eventuated,” Mr Windsor said.