



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Nats try to re-write history on Telstra full sale Remember – the Nats sold out

The claim by National Party Senators Nash and Joyce that the National Broadband Network announced today by the Federal Government may well have been originally proposed by the Nationals, but when the Nationals had the power to implement it they squibbed it, according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor says that the Nationals are now trying to re-write history to play down their rolling over and agreeing to sell off Telstra when over 80% of their constituents didn't want them to.

"I am amazed that the National Party has the gall to claim that the now Federal Government is implementing their plan.

"People should remember that the National Party including Senators Joyce and Nash all voted to sell off Telstra despite being told by over 80% of their constituents that they didn't want it sold.

"Back then, Barnaby Joyce and Fiona Nash could have kept Telstra in majority Government ownership by standing up to their Liberal masters.

"They could have driven what they now claim to be their plan.

"But they didn't – they squibbed it - settled for a trust fund that dribbled out about \$100m a year in interest payments to future proof country Australians and told everyone that they had guarantees of equity of access to telephone and broadband enshrined in the legislation but these have never been seen.

"For Senator Nash and Senator Joyce to now say it was their plan and thereby deny the role the Nationals played in the full sale of Telstra to the detriment of country Australians is a gross misrepresentation of the facts on their real position shown on the floor of the Parliament.

"People shouldn't need reminding but just in case, the Nationals voted to sell off Telstra and in doing so accepted a lesser quality telecommunication service for country Australians.

"I now look forward to the new National Broadband Network being rolled out and country Australians being able to share in the benefits it will bring," Mr Windsor said.

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