



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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"A one-day inquiry is a gesture" - Barnaby

He must have forgotten selling Telstra after a one day Inquiry

Backflip Barnaby has lived up to his name again when describing his view of the proposal to hold a one-day Senate inquiry into the Government's \$42 billion stimulus package according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor said that the ABC has reported Senator Joyce's reaction to the proposal with the lead in to his quote being, "But Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce says a one-day inquiry is a waste of time.

"A one-day inquiry is a gesture and there's been a lot of gestures around here lately," he (Senator Joyce) said.

Mr Windsor remembers Senator Joyce willingly being involved in the one day Inquiry into the Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2005 on September 9, 2005 when he held the balance of power.

"Senator Joyce's comments about one day inquiries reflect his 'Backflip Barnaby' tag of recent times.

"Senator Joyce took part in the one day Senate Inquiry into Telstra full sale Bill in September 2005 after which he made the decision to sell out country people and support the full sale leaving the Australian Government with no political leverage over the direction of Telstra.

"This was despite over 80% of country people being against the deal.

"We are still looking for the guarantees about equity of access to phone services given to Senator Joyce and the National Farmers Federation supposedly 'enshrined' in the legislation but never eventuated," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that Senator Joyce's "backflips" in Opposition have shown his hypocrisy and inconsistency of supporting those he purports to represent.

"The farmers on the Liverpool Plains held high hopes of support from Senator Joyce and his National Party colleagues on their battle with mining exploration of their highly productive farm land only to have them initially support their cause and then backflip following mining industry pressure.

"This backflip was followed by Senator Joyce backflipping on his support for a student amenities fee for university students where he even crossed the floor when in Government but when he had the opportunity to support students particularly at regional universities recently, he put up a limp amendment confining services to sporting activities refusing to acknowledge the need to support other activities which he had previously supported and in the full knowledge that it wouldn't be passed.

"There was great hope for Senator Joyce to lead the National Party out of the wilderness but I'm afraid all he is doing is leading his lost tribe around in circles in the long grass unable to find what they really stand for," Mr Windsor said.

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