

26 February 2015

Christine McDonald,
Secretary, Environment and Communications Legislation Committee,
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms McDonald

**Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014
and Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Amendment Bill 2014 Further referral**

I refer to your letter inviting Telstra to provide a written submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (**the Committee**).

Telstra supports the removal of red tape, the reform of inefficient regulation, and ensuring the structures of government departments and government agencies are efficient. In Telstra's view, the Bills go some way to achieving these objectives.

The Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014 would abolish the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (**TUSMA**) and transfer its functions to the Department of Communications. It is Telstra's understanding that the proposed transfer of functions is a measure to improve the efficiency of government, and is not a result of the amended agreement between TUSMA and Telstra, entered into pursuant to the *Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency Act 2012* (Cth). Further, while the amended TUSMA agreement contemplates the proposed transfer of functions, it does so to ensure the amended TUSMA agreement remains operational whether TUSMA or the Department are responsible for the relevant functions.

Telstra submits, therefore, that the Bills are independent of the amended TUSMA agreement, and the Committee should recommend their passage.

Yours sincerely

Iain Little
Deputy Executive Director – Regulatory Affairs
Corporate Affairs