

2nd October 2009

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment Bill

My comment is more particularly directed to the actions of the Federal Government and it is one I have very strong opposition to what it proposes to do.

I am a senior citizen and retired company director of my own company.

I am also a long standing shareholder of Telstra Corporation, personally and within both my company's and its superannuation investment fund.

I have observed many things in the business world over many years, however I must confess this Telecommunications Amendment Bill is one that to use simple and emotional words initially reeks of ugly political hypocrisy to the highest degree.

I find it so absurd and along with many people I talk to on the subject matter, no one I regard as having constructive thought and belief in fair play is tolerable of such behaviour and attitude from the Federal Government.

Telstra was privatised and floated into a public company and it was done over several years through 3 different tranches. We the general public have become the majority of shareholders and the Federal Government have taken the money from us to purchase it.

The Federal Government made its election promise to deliver a National Broadband Network. They would have made the decision based on the telecommunication situation at the time.

In any normal market circumstances they had a right to ask for tenders and this was done, that is fine.

I have learned to appreciate that 'markets' decide in the true spirit of how things are achieved and financed in this great nation of ours. I feel that the telecommunication industry falls exactly in the same category and it should

Telstra Corporation is NOT a government owned company – it is a public listed company which is now owned fair and square by its shareholders.

The Future Fund owns shares also – they sold a large parcel of their shares recently to the market, for whatever reason.

It was a several weeks after this transaction that there was a sudden announcement made by the Federal Government that there was at their command huge compulsory changes to the structure of Telstra Corporation – a decision determined solely by a non shareholder. The Future Fund owns those shares but as confirmed by the Right Honourable Stephen Conroy MP it has been stated they had no prior knowledge of this to his announcement.

I cannot help but feel that this is a deplorable act by a government that seems simply out to achieve a means to its own ends – in a way that makes me feel as though it is something almost unconstitutional.

How dare a government go through the floating processes of selling off our tax payers owned Telstra, to take our money so that we own it as shareholders and then have the audacity to design a legislation that lets them decide how our company is to be run afterwards.

This is wrong, so wrong – I cannot let things like this happen without expressing how we as shareholders, as citizens of our great country, people who have put our hard earned tax paid savings into Telstra Corporation and this is our company, we paid for it. This was offered for sale by the Federal Government – it was their decision.

Now, we are being subjected to this treatment, they have got their money and alas are unable let go of helm. What a spoilt child they now appear to be.

Telstra Corporation is now part of a huge market of the many diversified corporations that make up what our country is and what fundamentally is the structure of our country.

In these now current circumstances the Federal Government must accept the situation and not think it has a right to change rules to simply suit a means to its own end. This market will decide the National Broadband Network solution and how and whether there should be one at all. These are the processes that should be allowed to work.

If governments make promises that can't be delivered than so be it – they are the ones that need to live with it. They do not OWN our company and never will again – and thank goodness.

This problem is one of their entire making and is not to be solved by such an abhorrent legislation – NO.

