

Brien, Andrew (REPS)

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To: Committee, CITA (REPS)
Subject: Telstra inquiry

TELSTRA INQUIRY
Submission No. 37

To
Secretary
House of Representatives Communications, Information Technology & the Arts committee. Re inquiry into Telstra structure.

The Country Women's Association of Australia with a membership of approx. 32,000, do not support the full sale of Telstra.

There are too many examples of privatization of essential services being extremely detrimental to the consumer.

A most recent example being the 350% price hike in electricity in S.A. when the gas supply from Moomba was in jeopardy.

* There are concerns that the fragmentation of a "consumer friendly" one stop shop concept with a total package of services as provided through the Telstra Country Wide model will lead to a breakdown on advice of interrelated and connected services, supplies and enhanced services.

(The current system allows for all requirements of services to be advised from across the breadth of Telstra Departments)

* There are concerns that the revenue raising and highly financial streams will be pulled out and sold off, most likely to overseas companies, as attractive commercial ventures without the same commitment to rural, regional and remote consumers.

(The infrastructure to support extended service supply to all communities will not have its high cost of installation offset hence impacting on higher costs to users).

* There are also concerns that the ability and independence of Telstra to -at its discretion, assist with service, sponsorship and support. Packages to communities, groups and organizations, will be inhibited if it does not own a full range of services.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the inquiry.

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