

Brisbane, 17 January 2003

The Secretary
House of Representatives
Communications Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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| Telstra Inquiry Submission No. 21 |
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**Submission regarding
The structural separation of Telstra's core network from its other
businesses.**

I fully support the proposed separation and make the network a government-owned infrastructure with a focus on network engineering. This would allow the government to maintain the network and charge the telco's for their usage of the network, just as the customers.

This arrangement would create a level-playing field for all telcos and make things more transparent. It would curtail Telstra's monopoly striving and hopefully with this more competitive setup prices for consumers would come down.

In fact it is rather amazing that this arrangement was not put in place before the partly privatisation of Telstra.

I find it rather disappointing that this important issue was announced just before the holiday season and that the inquiry ends at the end of the holiday season. This gives the impression that this inquiry is only paying lip service to this sound arrangement and that the Government continues to bow deeply to vested interests. The interests of the Australian people and of Australian business is poorly served through a privatised and monopolised Telstra holding all the cards.

To give this inquiry more bite the deadline should be extended to at least mid-March and again it should be announced in reading papers and other channels that this House of Representatives Committee is looking for submissions from the public.

Yours sincerely

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