

McMahon, Paul (REPS)

From: Lynne De Weaver [deweaver@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Sunday, 5 January 2003 1:39 PM
To: Committee, CITA (REPS)
Subject: Structure of Telstra

To The Secretary
House of Reps. Communications & IT & the Arts Committee

After working for nearly 3 years on Telecommunications related projects in the Northern Rivers of NSW, I firmly believe that it is in the best interest of all Australians - both regional and city based, for the federal government to maintain ownership of Telstra's core infrastructure.

By maintaining ownership of the core network, the government would continue to be able to generate revenue for the Commonwealth by making access to network services available to all competitors on a fee for service basis. This would do more to stimulate free and fair competition than any other initiative that the government might consider

I also believe that if Telstra was sold off in its present state, then they would become the 'big gorilla' and would prevent both new and existing providers such as Optus, Primus & AAPT, and others from fairly accessing the core network services required to deliver their products and services to their customers.

The revenue generated from this type of network usage could generate both sufficient income to pay for the USO as well as upgrade all network infrastructure as required. Not only would this type of usage generate ongoing revenue for the Commonwealth it would also enable this vital infrastructure to remain in *Australian* public ownership.

I believe, along with many other people in the Northern Rivers, that Telstra's original shareholders *are and always have been* the taxpayers of Australia - not individuals or corporations.

If the Government wants to divest itself of the retail parts of Telstra all well and good but if they sell off Telstra in its present configuration that will be the death knell for genuine competition in the Telecommunications industry in Australia ACCC notwithstanding.

By maintaining public ownership of Telstra's core infrastructure, the Commonwealth would also ensure the efficient provision of services to all end-users, including business and residential customers wherever they live and work in Australia.

Yours sincerely
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