



TELSTRA INQUIRY
Submission No. 43

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Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA
Email to: cita.reps@aph.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into Telstra

Dear Sir/Madam

WestNet Pty Ltd is a Western Australian owned and operated ISP and Licensed Telecommunications Carrier. We wish to express our strong support for the government's proposal to separate Telstra into distinct wholesale and retail organisations.

We have first hand experience with the current situation through our dealings with Telstra over many years. We continue to be amazed that the Government could believe it fair for us to be dealing with one arm of Telstra for the supply of our wholesale services, whilst we compete with another arm of Telstra at the retail coalface.

That arrangement is unsustainable and presents an infinite number of opportunities for competitive advantage within the Telstra organisation. Telstra will refute these claims, but we have all seen the power of, and Telstra's willingness to use, its legal resources to prevent or delay any serious allegations from being properly investigated.

It is difficult to imagine another industry tolerating this situation. There will never be genuine competition with Telstra while this situation is allowed to continue. If Telstra wholesale was owned by separate shareholders to Telstra retail, then the Telecommunications industry would be far more competitive and advanced than where we are now. It would resolve many competitive issues immediately.

We would be more than happy to provide any evidence required to backup our claims and help progress a structural separation of Telstra divisions.

Regards

Peter Brown
Managing Director