

Subject: Proposed Legislation re breakup of Telstra

The Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee On Environment, Communications and the Arts.

We are Telstra shareholders. We object very strongly to the proposed legislation, outlined by Senator Stephen Conroy, that will enforce a destructive break up of the Telstra business.

We would point out that Telstra is a listed company and its assets are owned by its 1.4 million shareholders. We bought these shares from the Federal Government in good faith and we believe that it is absolutely outrageous for the Government to now change the laws so soon after selling them and to force Telstra to sell its assets. It is quite outrageous for the Government to command a public listed company to sell its assets. This is unprecedented in Australia and goes contrary to every shareholder's rights. And the constant harping of the Government that there is a lack of competition in this industry just does not stack up; to the best of our knowledge Telstra has no more than 40% of the market in mobiles and in the internet broadband which means that competitors control 60% of these markets.

We urge the government to drop their proposed draconian legislation.