

The Chairman
Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I hereby make the following submissions:

1. That the Public needed more time to make submissions - at least two weeks

2. That Telstra ought to be separated into three companies

i) Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation - build, operate, repair and upgrade the wire based telecommunications network which sells use of the system to retailers

This Corporation would compete with the Optus wire based network

in places where it exists

This may lead to a need for Optus to separate its wholesale and retail

into two companies

ii) Telstra Mobile competing with other networks as Optus and Vodophone have their own towers to compete with the Telstra system

iii) Telstra retail - buying use of the system from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation on a level playing field with competitors

3. This separation would enable a staggered sale

to sell the remainder of Telstra in one go would flood the market with shares

and with limited funds to purchase the shares the price would be minimised

A staggered sale would for example provide superannuation funds to buy shares as new contributions come in.

It is suggested that the staggered sale be broken up as follows but not necessarily in the following order:

i) 25% Telstra Mobile

ii) 26% Telstra Mobile

iii) 25% Telstra retail

iv) 26% Telstra retail

v) 15% Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation

vi) 15% Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation

vii) 21% Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation

4. It would be preferable to restructure the Government's share to retail ownership of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation as this is basic national infrastructure which requires huge investment, guaranteed service levels etc.

5. Services such as 000 , fault reporting, the information service providing phone numbers (which should be free) the provision of free services such as but not limited to Lifeline Counselling Service and the White Pages should be provided by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Corporation

6. Subscribers in Outback Australia should have satellite services to the nearest town the cost of an untimed local call ; satellite calls to 1800 numbers should be free as they are from landlines here in Sydney and 1300 satellite calls should be the same as the cost here in Sydney. (ie the cost in the capital cities using landlines) satellite calls to 000 need to be free.

7. There ought to be a requirement that all retailers including call centres and shopping centre and door to door salespeople to clearly show new or potential subscribers on a printed map clearly showing the areas covered AND to clearly explain to all subscribers and especially city subscribers areas NOT covered (over the phone to outline coverage and non coverage) and to clearly explain that if the subscriber travels in isolated rural areas and the Outback that vast isolated areas may not be serviced and that it might be necessary to hire a satellite phone in those areas.

The Committee will recall earlier in the year where two tourists perished on the Canning Trail in WA .

There may be other comments I would like to make however we have only been given an incredibly short period to make submissions

Yours Sincerely

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