

- * The Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2005
- * The Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Issues) Bill 2005
- * The provisions of the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Future Proofing and Other Measures) Bill 2005
- * The provisions of the Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment (Industry Plans and Consumer Codes) Bill 2005
- * The Appropriation (Regional Telecommunications Services) Bill 2005

Good Afternoon

I would like to state my severe reservations over the impending sale of the Public Utility - Telstra. I am concerned the quality of service delivery could be compromised by the transition into a fully privatised utility. I do not believe the current provision of services is adequate and I worry that a private business may choose not to upgrade the service.

I live in the suburb of Beaconsfield in the Perth Metropolitan area. Beaconsfield is three kilometres out of Fremantle and seventeen kilometres away from Perth. Before the invent and introduction of the Internet, the choice was made to save money in my area. Beaconsfield is a very old area in Perth, where housing and properties were established from the first days of settlement. My own home was built between 1910 and 1930. When the suburb required new telephone lines for the new residences, the choice was made instead to separate the lines.

As a consequence, our phone line is "pair-gain", in other words, one copper line instead of two. On a 56k modem, our average download speed is 21k with a range of 12k to 29k. This is a problem for my university studies and email communications, as only one web page can be downloaded at a time and it has taken in the past over three hours to download emails from the server. Nor in my locality, can we connect to Broadband or ISDM services.

I also travel in the country and am aware that outside of townships, there are many areas where mobile telephone networks do not reach. In some towns, there are blank spots within it. A friend and I once broke down 80 kilometres out of Perth and were unable to connect to the Telstra network, which, as two females on the side of a country road, was distressing.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns as a private citizen.

Yours Sincerely

Bronwyn Cropley