

Committee members,

I wish to lodge my objection to the full sale of Telstra, and respectfully suggest that the Government consider nationalising the company, and at a handsome profit.

Shares at the last sale of Telstra were more than seven dollars. They are now about \$4.30. If the Government were to repurchase the shares, they would have made a profit on the whole deal, and Australians would still have a Government that supplies at least at telephone to each home.

It is clear that the Government, at some stage, lied to the public. The distinction Prime Minister Howard has made as to whom the information should have disclosed to is spurious. By definition, the Government in a democracy is the people. The people, by definition, owns 51% of Telstra. There are many Australians that own private shares in Telstra. Ergo, the public which owns the company has a right to the information forwarded to the Government by Telstra senior executives.

This is a situation of the Governments own making. To use the argument that there is a conflict of interest, which its own policy created, to justify the selling of a publically owned company is fatuous. Despite the election result, it should be clear to all of the Committee members that, for whatever reason the majority of the electoral voted for the Coalition, it was not because the public wants Telstra to be sold.

This is an irrevocable decision. If the Government is insistant on going ahead of this sale, I demand that a referendum be held on the specific questions of whether Telstra should be sold or nationalised. Two choices phrased simply, not like the Republican referendum:

Do you want to fully privatise Telstra?

Do you want to nationalise Telstra?

Yes and No for both. Simple, democratic, final.

This Government does not have a mandate to sell Telstra.

Yours faithfully,
Stuart Davy