

24 November 2014

Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms McDonald,

Telstra submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Committee inquiry into Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014 & related Bill

Telstra notes that the Government has indicated that it will not be proceeding with certain of the amendments contained in the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014. Telstra supports the remaining proposed amendments to telecommunications legislation that are set out in the Bills.

The amendments were the subject of extensive consultation with industry and consumer groups, including via the Department of Communications' online discussion board, and the stakeholder consultation forum on 12 May 2014. Consumer interests were represented through ACCAN, who supported these reforms in their submission of 5 May 2014 on the basis that these reforms would not negatively impact consumers, while delivering benefits to industry.¹

Telstra considers that the reforms are sensible proposals to reduce the regulatory cost imposed on the telecommunications industry, without reducing consumer protections. These reforms will remove unnecessary and burdensome regulatory obligations, allowing telecommunications providers greater flexibility in how they deliver services to customers, ultimately to the benefit of our customers.

Yours sincerely,

Jane van Beelen
Executive Director – Regulatory Affairs
Corporate Affairs

¹<https://accan.org.au/files/Submissions/Proposed%20measures%20for%20the%20Telecommunications%20Deregulation%20Bill%20No%201.pdf>