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Submission for:
Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Safeguards)
Bill 2009

As a Telstra shareholder and an Australian consumer I feel that that the proposed amendment is actually a very positive one. I feel the benefits for me (and others) as a consumer will far outweigh the benefits received so far as a Telstra shareholder with it's "unique" market position (as an exclusive wholesaler/retailer of copper services).

I currently have relatives with an Optus cable internet service and for them to move to -any- other Internet Service Provider they have to pay Telstra to reconnect the copper line (already at their house) for ADSL services. Telstra also effectively forces them to pay their high rates for services for at least three months threatening a \$100 penalty if they leave earlier! I hardly think this creates a fair marketplace and it certainly limits competition. I don't think Telstra should receive money when a consumer is trying to get a service from another provider.

The only way to encourage competition in the marketplace and allow consumers to more easily change providers without excessive penalty is to separate the shared infrastructure from those selling the services at a retail level.

It's a shame this wasn't done a long time ago when the Telstra was partially privatised but hopefully it can be rectified so we can move without baggage into the 21st century with a fairer telecommunications marketplace.

John Phillips,
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