

Submission to Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee in respect of Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Safeguards) Bill 2009

I totally oppose the Senate approving the bill, as it is my strong belief that the federal government has no rights to force a structural separation of Telstra.

The proposed bill is inconsistent with the competition policy of the federal government when it proposes to prevent Telstra among other players in the telecommunication industry to bid for future spectrum. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) should be ashamed of not coming out to make a stand against the federal government proposal for taking such an anti-competition act.

Telstra was a creation of the federal government and has been off loaded to the public based on laws and regulations, which apply equally across the board to every public listed company. The proposed bill is discriminately, as it biased against Telstra alone to remove any potential competition with the federal government's future broadband company.

The proposed bill is also politically motivated to remedy the federal government's mistake in announcing its national broadband project without establishing a business case hence its attempt to stifle Telstra to give the future broadband company a monopoly status, which is not in the interest of the country at all.

It is well established laws that the government cannot acquire private interests without adequate compensation. The federal government by proposing to prevent Telstra to bid for future spectrum for which Telstra like other telecommunication companies is entitled to, is trying to pay no compensation for denying the right of Telstra to bid and furthermore, has no intention to pay compensation in forcing a structural separation of Telstra against its wishes.

I do not object to the federal government broadband project but do strongly object the federal government trying to eliminate and restrict Telstra from competing, which is not what a free enterprise economy market should be about.

I strongly recommend the Senate to oppose the proposed bill.

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