

Firstly let me tell you I am a direct shareholder of Telstra and indirect owner of Telstra shares through my superannuation fund like many other people in Australia.

From what I have learnt Telstra became a monopoly through Government Legislation, it was offered to the Public for sale through the various sales ie T1, T2 AND T3, the government received billions of dollars through the sale.

Now I presume the government ministers all received advice from industry experts, lawyers and the like on what would happen if telecom and the OTC was merged in 1995 (Now known as Telstra) and I am sure all members of Parliament received the same advice when it was being sold off to the Australian public, so I cannot accept ignorance in this as an excuse for bad policy making regardless of what party was in power at the time.

Now obviously the Government cannot afford to duplicate the communications network, so from what I am seeing is the Government blackmailing Telstra, either split into wholesale and retail networks bundle your last mile of copper wire into NBN's assets, sell off its 50% Foxtel investment or if you don't we will not allow you to buy into wireless spectrum.

I also understand this decision will put Telstra directors in a bind as they will be liable if they accept a value destroying deal and if they don't follow government regulations, you guessed it liable again.

Now I have read how restructuring Telstra will save consumers money which I highly doubt, ie Anna Blight said our electricity bills will be less (because of more competition in the marketplace) when the retail arm of Energen was sold off, guess what our electricity bills have gone up 40% since then.

Telstra is a massive employer of Australian citizens, Telstra also has a large cash flow, which we all benefit from eg: dividends paid to shareholders, superannuation funds not to mention the amount of tax revenue the government takes from it. More importantly the cash stays in Australia, also from what I am reading the Telco Unions are worried that the separation will put thousands of jobs at risk, as separation would put significant strain on that cash flow.

I have taken a quick look at the companies who want Telstra broken up, Optus and Powertel are overseas companies, their interests aren't in the Australian people they want more income to pass onto their relevant shareholders in other countries.

Another thing which disturbs me is Stephen Conroy wants to know everything Telstra owns, which I deem unacceptable posing security threats of that information getting to the wrong people or the advantage it would give to Telstra's Competitors.

I could go on and on. Bottom line is I bought a Company from the Government in the form of Telstra, The government took my money, spent my money and is now coming back to destroy value in my company.

Greg Lane