

18/11/02

Mr Alan Smith
Cape Bridgewater Convention Centre and Holiday Camp
Blowholes Road
Cape Bridgewater. Vic 3305

Re. Casualties of Telstra.

Dear Alan

I am writing to you following viewing the Channel 9 Sunday Program on 3/11/02. After viewing the Sunday program, I realised the similarities your business and others had with Telstra some ten years ago with the similarities our building business had, when we lived at Bridgewater.

During a period of time between the late 1980s and early 1990s we had a considerable amount of difficulty with our phone. The problem with our phone line was although we could ring out to people, people couldn't ring through to us. They appeared to receive an engaged signal. We weren't aware of the problem until business friends and relations in Portland stated that they had tried on several occasions to ring us but couldn't get through. We were aware of the times when they rang as we were home at the time. The calls never rang through to our house.

During this period of time I was on a call talking to a councilor. She believed that the conversation we were having was being bugged, or listened into, and so we immediately ceased the call. At the time I was having difficulty with Kalari Transports and I believed they were involved. They were stopping us from building our house on the farm.

Our phone problem had such a negative effect on our building business over a period of time that our work dried up and our business shut down. Our business had been running successfully for several years prior to the phone problem. I ended up having to find alternative employment on wages and now live and work in Adelaide with my family. It has taken us several years to financially recover from the business closing and we are just starting to break even today.

During that period of time I may have complained to the Telecom Ombudsman but as it was some time ago I cannot fully recall. About three to four years ago (just before I left Portland) I received a call from the Victorian Police Fraud Squad inquiring about Telstra, the difficulties we had with Telstra and a Portland Telecom Technician by the name of [REDACTED]. The police officer did not go into detail as to what he was investigating.

It now appears that after watching the Sunday program, we were possibly one of the 'Casualties of Telstra'.

If you have any information that would bring us up to speed on this issue or a contact list for assistance or advice could you please forward the information to the address noted below.

Yours faithfully,

Mobile 040
AH (08)