



BARNABY JOYCE

The Nationals Senator for Queensland

15 September 2005

Mr Alan Smith
Seal Cove Guest House,
Cape Bridgewater
Portland RMB 4409 VIC 3305

Dear Mr Smith,

Casualties of Telstra – Independent Assessment

As you are aware, I met with a delegation of CoT representatives in Brisbane in July 2005. At this meeting I made an undertaking to assist the group in seeking Independent Commercial Loss Assessments relating to claims against Telstra.

As a result of my thorough review of the relevant Telstra sale legislation, I proposed a number of amendments which were delivered to Minister Coonan. In addition to my requests, I sought from the Minister closure of any compensatory commitments given by the Minister or Telstra and outstanding legal issues.

In response, I am pleased to inform you that the Minister has agreed there needs to be finality of outstanding CoT cases and related disputes. The Minister has advised she will appoint an independent assessor to review the status of outstanding claims and provided a basis for these to be resolved.

I would like you to understand that I could only have achieved this positive outcome on your behalf if I voted for the Telstra privatisation legislation.

Please be assured that I will continue to represent your concerns in the course of this resolution. I look forward to your continued support.

Kind regards,

Senator Barnaby Joyce
The Nationals Senator for Queensland

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