

Brett Stephens  
73 Whynot Street  
West End Q 4101  
June 5, 2020

Director  
Telecommunications Competition  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
GPO Box 594  
Canberra ACT 2601

**RE: Extension for Telstra Exemptions for its South Brisbane and Velocity networks**

Dear Minister,

This letter is to express my request that you NOT grant the requested extension to Telstra for their current exemptions to the Telstra South Brisbane Velocity Fibre Network.

The current exemptions granted by your Department represents a barrier to competition and services for other providers within my community. As a consequence of these exemptions granted, Telstra operate a service which is more expensive, of lower quality and does not comply with the existing Telecommunications Act.

Over the past months, where I have been forced to work from home by this COVID crisis. The inadequacy of the internet service in my community is clearly evident. The fact that Telstra has failed to upgrade any of these systems is due only to your departments granting of exemptions to operate. Should you grant this exemption, then you will just provide a financial windfall to Telstra and consign our community to continued higher costs of services and the same unchanged lower quality of service.

Please do not grant this exemption. Telstra is the only beneficiary of this exemption, by obtain financial gain at the cost of the residents and taxpayers of South Brisbane. We live less than 2km from the Brisbane CBD. I see no reason that Telstra would be continued to be provided this financial windfall by your government.

All we ask is the same opportunity to access fair market competition for an essential services and protection under the Act that everyone else in our community expects.

We want the NBN in our community now It has been way too long in coming to a capital city suburb! Not an unreasonable request and one I hope that you grant.

Yours truly



Brett Stephens