

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

Alliance to support Telstra rally in Bendigo

Country Alliance says it is supporting a campaign by the Communication Electrical and Plumbing Union to protest against the sale of Telstra, at the Hargreaves Mall in Bendigo this Saturday.

Alliance spokesperson, Russell Bate, said the CEPU's "Hang Up On Howard" campaign highlighted the unpopularity of the decision to sell the telco.

"Politicians must be reminded that Governments are the custodians of assets on the public's behalf," he said.

"Mr Howard has been trying to convince us to accept his ideological position on this issue since he became Prime Minister in 1996. He has still not convinced the Australian people".

Mr Bate said the coalition could not use winning control of the Senate to justify their actions.

"The Nationals cannot hide behind the proposed \$3 billion dollar deal to justify selling out their constituents, nor can they pretend that is sufficient to meet current and future telecommunication needs"

He said the Government should listen to the CEPU because its campaign highlighted the problems of Telstra from falling into private hands.

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