

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

Goodwin attacks Bendigo job losses

Country Alliance's candidate for Northern Victorian Region, Fred Goodwin, has criticised Telstra's decision to cut jobs from its workforce in Bendigo.

Last week, Telstra announced the closure of its local call centre with the loss of 58 jobs.

"Once again Telstra find the easy way to cut costs by cutting jobs. Forget what Telstra's management says, this is 'spin' designed to cut costs that has nothing to do with providing a service," he said.

"Telecommunications were provided as a public service along with rail, roads, schools and hospitals. They were never designed to be a money making enterprise and the greed of privatisation is ruining our opportunities, culture and life style."

Mr Goodwin said his party, which is contesting this year's Victorian state election, remains opposed to the privatisation of public assets such as Telstra.

Mr Goodwin said staff are desperate for work to pay off mortgages, educate their kids and cannot be without work.

"What has Telstra's management achieved in this exercise? It has traumatized the staff and their families, and sick leave has gone through the roof overnight. What would you expect when you treat staff in such a grubby fashion?" he asked.

For comment: Fred Goodwin, Candidate for
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