



## Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

**Media Release**

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### **North-West campaign turns Telstra**

A MAJOR campaign which started in North-West Tasmania in reaction to people's anger at Telstra's new billing charge has been a success says Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom.

Mr Sidebottom said the build-up of pressure, including his direct and personal representation to Telstra CEO David Thodey, had won through.

"I have spoken on this in Parliament on three occasions and spoken directly to Mr Thodey, as well as Telstra representatives in Tasmania," Mr Sidebottom said.

"While we gained some concessions after the first phase of the campaign, we made it clear the whole charge had to go on principle, and I note this is acknowledged by Mr Thodey.

On top of speaking in Parliament on this issue, and writing directly to Mr Thodey, Mr Sidebottom also launched a major petition in the Braddon electorate in August, which has attracted more than 1700 signatures to date.

Mr Sidebottom said he was also happy to second a Private Member's Motion on the Telstra charge from Franklin MP Julie Collins.

"I'm really glad for all of those people who supported our campaign, including many hundreds from the North-West and West coasts got right behind this signing a petition from my office.

"I was encouraged by my communications with Mr Thodey and with Telstra in Tasmania that they would be prepared to reconsider the decision in the light of the damage it was doing to loyal customers who had no option but to remain with Telstra.

"I congratulate David Thodey and Telstra on acting on their aim to out customers at the heart of the business."

Mr Sidebottom said Telstra would automatically refund all of the bill payment administration fees already paid by customers since September 14, 2009.

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