

# In Brief: Aussies might delay Telstra privatization

May 1 2006

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The planned privatization of Australian telecom major Telstra could be delayed due to regulatory uncertainties.

Telstra's plans to invest some \$3 billion in a new broadband network have been clouded by disagreements over the access Telstra's competitors would have to the proposed nationwide net.

Finance Minister Nick Minchin told *The Australian* over the weekend that the need for a tight regulatory environment for the broadband network "would influence the question of whether we can proceed to a sale (of Telstra) this year."

The Australian Cabinet is scheduled to discuss the potential sale of the government's 51.8-percent stake in Telstra at its May 8 meeting.

The Australian said Sunday that Minchin ruled out a role for the government in regulating competitor access to the \$1 billion third-generation wireless phone network Telstra is currently building.

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Citation: In Brief: Aussies might delay Telstra privatization (2006, May 1) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-05-aussies-telstra-privatization.html>

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