MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

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To contact Gerry: 8983 1302(bh)  8983 1237(ah)  0428 698 037(mobile)

AUDITOR GENERAL SHOULD INVESTIGATE RICHARD HANCOCK ALLEGATIONS

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, is calling on the Chief Minister to ask the Auditor General to investigate allegations surrounding Mr Richard Hancock.

Gerry says that following a report by the Inspector of Municipal Administration in Victorian Government, a story in the Melbourne Age (Nov 21) and a story in the NT News (Nov 27) regarding matters surrounding Mr Richard Hancock, Chief Executive of the NT Department of Planning and Lands, it is obvious there are matters which need further investigation.

Gerry says that the Victorian report made serious allegations and the report was done by a prominent accountancy firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Matters in the report were made public and they should be answered in detail and also made public.

Gerry says others issues have now been raised by the NT News which could have some similarities to the issues raised in the Victorian report. Details of other concerns have also been bought to his attention but he will only discuss these matters with the Auditor General. Whether there is any substance or not to these matters, they need to be cleared up and the best way for that is an investigation by the Auditor General.

In the meantime Gerry believes that Mr Hancock should stand aside (something Gerry had asked for when this matter first came to light) until there are satisfactory answers to the issues raised.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo