Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says there is no doubt that the proposed development near East Point is visionary and professional.

But when all the hype quietens down, there needs to be rational discussions about the merits or otherwise of the proposal.

When some in the media use the adjectives ‘degraded, ‘poor’ and ‘scraggly’ to describe mangroves then you know they blindly support the development or don’t understand the importance of mangroves. By the way Cullen Bay is not the same as this development.

The Government has said that it will allow 5% of the mangroves of Darwin to be developed. That 5% should be carefully assessed.

Gerry says a study of the productivity of the Ludmilla mangroves should be the first thing done – after all if this is a major source of food for marine life in the area we need to know.

Secondly, East Arm has a fine collection of coral in Australia protected by a East Point Aquatic Life Reserve. A study needs to take place as to whether changes to currents caused by the proposed solid rock wall will affect the coral.

Thirdly what happens to the upper reaches of Ludmilla Creek? Has an alternative design been looked at to see if it can be saved from destruction and what input has the Ludmilla Landcare Group had in this development?

Gerry says if this kind of development is supported just because its looks good and then 20 years down the track there are some unforeseen consequences which the taxpayers have to pay for then you know this was not a sustainable development.

The Government and the developer must use an independent scientific assessment to prove this is a sustainable development before any approvals to go ahead are given.

It is not about being anti development or part of the green lobby, it’s about using due diligence and common sense.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo