Kezia Purick
Deputy Opposition Leader

Media Release

10th February 2010

WOOD CHANGES HIS TUNE

The Member for Nelson is engaging in a significant re-writing of history as he attempts to justify his decision to become a defacto member of the Labor Party.

On ABC radio yesterday morning Gerry Wood was complaining that the perception of him as a king maker is all media hype.

“The irony is that Gerry referred to himself as the ‘Independent Minister for the lot’ on the day he decided to keep the Henderson Government in power,” says Kezia Purick, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“On the same day Gerry made it very plain to the Parliament that he would be calling the shots on controversial issues stating ‘Of course I did not hold the balance of power then. Now I do.’

“Gerry Wood is shifting ground in an attempt to justify his decision to support only Labor legislation when Parliament resumes next week.

“Gerry had promised a new era of politics but has delivered business as usual from a Labor Government that continues to fail Territorians.

“Part of the August 14th agreement was that Gerry reserved the right to vote against the Government in the case of serious maladministration.

“’That’s exactly what we have seen from the Henderson Government in respect of child protection.

“The Henderson Government has engaged in a serial cover-up of its failure to deal with the crisis engulfing the child protection system.

“Gerry Wood has made himself a party to those failures and the Government’s desperate cover-up.

“The fact is Gerry Wood misled the people of Nelson when he ran as a Conservative Independent at the last Territory election and he misled the
people of the Territory when he talked of creating a new era in politics on August 14th last year.

“Gerry Wood should do the honourable thing and give the people of Nelson the right to decide if they want him to continue as a defacto member of the Labor Party.

“Gerry Wood needs to resign and facilitate a by-election in the seat of Nelson.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976