SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says a rare consensus in Parliament failed at the last the last hurdle when the Opposition or at least some of them led by the Member for Port Darwin decided to vote against a motion which would have been unique in the parliament.

The motion before parliament came after much negotiation between the Government, the Opposition and Gerry. For the first time a Minister would have appeared before the CTC (Council of Territory Cooperation) to reply to questions, in this case about matters of animal welfare especially in relation to Charles Darwin University.

The Chief Minister had just approved today, the new policy that stated that within some guidelines Ministers could appear before the CTC.

So when Minister McCarthy put forward a motion which amended the Member for Port Darwin’s original motion to go to the CTC rather then a select committee, the Member for Port Darwin decided not to support the motion.

Gerry says here was an opportunity for a bipartisan approach to investigate animal welfare issues including Mataranka and where the Minister had offered to be questioned about these issues – something unique.

The trade off was to go to the CTC instead of a select committee.

The member for Port Darwin said no, told the parliament how useless the CTC was and with most of his party voted against the amended motion.

So all that good work and good will went out the door.

But Gerry says the CTC will take up the challenge and do what the Parliament has now passed without the help of the Member for Port Darwin.

A great opportunity lost.