Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he has told the Government at a briefing yesterday that he would not support a tenure application for possible gas exploration over the Howard East Borefield.

He said a recent application for tenancy over an area east of Darwin includes part of the Howard East Borefield which is the source of 10% of Darwin’s water supply and for about 4000 rural residents who pump water from the aquifer for their domestic water supply.

Gerry says he is not opposed to gas exploration but thinks it would make good sense for the Government not to approve a tenancy over the Borefield.

He says there is plenty of land available for exploration without using the land over this aquifer and by not allowing exploration over the aquifer, that would take away concerns residents and the wider community may have about any possible risk to the water supply.