Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson says the recent announcement by the Chief Minister of building a purpose built stadium at the Gardens seems more about visions of a new Roman Empire rather than a proposal based on common sense.

He says that this may have been caused by the quiet of Christmas, a delusional dream or perhaps the upcoming election year.

Whatever, Gerry says, the future siting of a multi-purpose rectangular sporting facility needs some independent thought based on the best use of existing facilities and the best way to get that is to establish an independent group - minus Parramatta supporters and politicians - who know about demographics and sport especially rugby league.

The idea of a single purpose facility at Gardens because it is close to the CBD doesn’t make sense – it would not be within walking distance of the CBD and the only one business that would benefit would be the Casino.

The CLP and the previous Labor Government spent a lot of money developing the Marrara complex with three football codes that use a rectangular field already located there - not forgetting all the other sports that use Marrara with tennis to be soon added to the list.

There are three hotels close by to Marrara and if patrons which to visit the CBD after a game to enjoy the nightlife then good public transport will certainly solve the problem.

Gerry says that using Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide as an example that Darwin should copy is not a reason for abandoning Marrara. These big cities have interstate matches every weekend. Marrara serves a purpose that reflects who we are and to spend large sums of money just so we can have one Parramatta rugby league match a year would be a scandalous waste of the TIO sale money.

Gerry says the idea of putting a facility at the Gardens or even in the CBD sounds like Richardson Park revisited.