PUTTING OFF UPGRADE TO GUNN POINT ROAD - A KICK IN THE GUTS

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says with the Government planning to spend $50m to upgrade fishing facilities such as boat ramps, the decision not to upgrade Gunn Point Road is very disappointing and hypocritical.

He says there are two boat ramps in the Gunn Point area that are used by many locals and visitors. So to have the road dropped off this year’s works programme means that people using the road will continue to travel on an unsafe road as cars and boat trailers are shaken to bits by the corrugations. Fishers will now start looking for other places to drop their boat in the water. Upgrading boat ramps in the area makes little sense unless the road is also upgraded.

Gerry says that if the Government is looking to stimulate the economy then the $15m upgrade Gunn Point Road should stay on schedule as it will employ locals building the road as well as attract more visitors to Gunn Point which will also help local business in the area, such as the Leaders Creek Fishing Base, and increase opportunities for other businesses to start up there.

Gerry says he’s recently heard one of the members for Alice Springs complaining about a decrease in Budget for Alice Springs but Gerry says Alice has done very well over the last few years with successive Governments wanting to improve their political standings with lots of improvements in the town. He says its time the rural area received its fair share.

He said that the Litchfield rural area, with a population as big as Alice, tends to be forgotten by Governments and when some funds do come this way it is most welcome but now to find most of those funds have disappeared into the ether of a time unknown, it is a kick in the guts.

Gerry says the Gunn Point Road upgrade should stay on this year’s budget and calls on the Government to think again.