CHIEF MINISTER DEFENDS A BAD PIECE OF LEGISLATION BY SKEWING THE FACTS

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says the Chief Minister has tried to hide his failure to consult with all Territorians – as promised- about changes to public holidays and therefore penalty pay rates by saying that Gerry doesn’t support workers and their right to be recompensed for working on the night before Christmas Day or News Years Day.

Gerry says that is blatantly untrue and the Chief Minister knows that Gerry supports the proper way for this to be discussed which is through the Fair Work Commission where both the unions and business can argue their case.

Gerry says the truth is that the Chief Minister’s populist rhetoric in Parliament was more suitable for a May Day Rally. It might have been done with solidarity fervour but he avoided the fact he is too scared to take his case to an independent body. A clear case of ‘look at me – look at me’

Gerry says he feels there is a good argument for recognition of those workers who work on the evening before Christmas and New Year but there needs to be a recognition that there are two parties that need to be consulted not just one.

If there is a case for extra payment for workers the Government should respect proper process and not use the back door approach by changing the classification of a part day to a public holiday to avoid an independent assessment.

All public holidays recognise a particular event such as Picnic Day, Anzac Day, Australia Day – now we will have Gunner Days.