MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

DATE: 3/01/08
To contact Gerry: 8983 1302 (bh) 8983 1237 (ah) 0428 698 037 (mobile)

RURAL MEETING WILL SHOW RURAL PEOPLE
LABOR’S CRAZY PLANS FOR RURAL COUNCIL

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says there will be a meeting at Girraween Primary School tomorrow night (Monday 4th) to give rural residents a chance to see what the government is proposing for its proposed ‘Top End’ Super Shire.

Gerry says he has called the meeting because people need to be aware of what is in the 2nd Draft Business Plan. He says that he has also called the meeting because this Draft has been released for Public Consultation and the Government has done nothing in the way of public meetings or public forums to promote consultation.

Gerry says that it is obvious that the Government intended its consultation to be done via its Departmental web site rather than getting out and asking the people but he doubts if the Government could run a meeting after the disastrous one and only public meeting the Government held at Taminmin High School last year.

Gerry says the meeting will highlight the changes the Government intends to impose on rural residents such as Companion Animal Welfare and Control, Fire Hazard Reduction, Libraries, Cultural Heritage, Housing and Infrastructure Maintenance, Local Welfare and Social Services. Other matters raised will the number of councillors, the election of the mayor, the role of the minister in approving rates, rates, Regional Agreements and local boards and if time the Local Government Act.

Gerry says the meeting will also show the Government that the community has not given up the fight to stop the forced council amalgamation but to reinforce the message that this whole process has been fraudulent and imposed on the community against their wishes. He says that most people believe there is a need for some reform of Local Government but not one where the community is bludgeoned into submission by the Government empire builders and the non elected Departmental head kickers.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo