OLD COUNCILS COMING TO AN END, BUT WHY NO ELECTIONS NOW FOR NEW COUNCILS?

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says it is a disgrace that the Government is getting away with running the new super shires next month without democratically elected councillors being elected to control those councils.

Gerry says that this will mean that the Department of Local Government, an unelected body, and the unelected CEO’s all appointed by the Government, will have total control over the shires until October. Gerry says that this is totally against the principals of open, transparent and democratic government and is akin to an autocratic state rather than a democratic one.

Gerry says the Government has had time to have an election before the July 1 kick off but has deliberately wanted control over these councils for at least a short time to enforce its poorly thought-out super shire model.

He also believes a truly independent Local Government Association should be creating merry hell about the process but except for a little noise some months ago, the silence from LGANT on such a fundamental issue is deafening.

Gerry says that the government should delay the closure of the old councils until newly elected council bodies are in place.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo