BIG PRISON, BIG MISTAKE, WRONG PLACE

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that the Government’s idea of building a super prison at Weddell shows a lack of long term planning when it comes to future correctional services in the NT.

The announcement just last week that the Government would go ahead with Weddell certainly made no reference to a prison.

A prison at Weddell is immediately going to reduce land available for housing as shown on the map provided by the Government.

Gerry says the Government should build a smaller prison at Berrimah and should build a series of prison farms across the Territory.

With 80% of prisoners being indigenous we should be planning correctional facilities in regional areas where prisoners can improve their education and skills. A mixture of work camps, prison farms and being closer to family are the answer.

The Government hasn’t said what will happen to the $7.2 Low Security prison only finished 2 years ago and the recently upgraded centre Don Dale centre. Are those facilities going to be bulldozed?

The prison is only being moved to make way for the Government’s dopey plans to sell off the Berrimah Research Station and Prison land for housing.

Gerry says it’s great to see the Government take up his suggestion of work camps, something he has been promoting for a number of years.

Gerry says build the new prison at Berrimah, develop more work camps and build more prison farms.