Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he doesn’t believe that Mataranka Station should be run by a University and the station should not be sold or closed down.

Gerry says there has been a trend over the last 20 years or so for Universities to take over Agricultural Colleges and this has not always led to the best outcomes.

Gerry says Mataranka Station has for many years been used as a training school for young indigenous and non indigenous people to get a job on a cattle station as a ringer or station hand.

He says that it would be appropriate for Taminmin College through its very successful VET programme to be given a chance to run the station so that students were trained on a real life station which would equip them better for a future job in the pastoral industry. Taminmin already runs successful farming courses.

Gerry says there also needs to be some consideration as to whether the Katherine Rural College should return to an independent school as it used to be and not a campus of the University.

If the University wants to be involved in Agricultural and Horticultural education then it should be involved at the Degree level not the certificate level.

The CDU’s failure to run Mataranka Station properly is enough reason to change to a new operator.