MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

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SUPPORT FOR CHANGES TO COUNCILS

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he would support a break up of the super shires as announced by the Country Liberals.

Gerry says from day 1 he has always said that the councils are far too big. He says that on his travels around the Territory he has seen many communities which have lost their identity, lost the centre of their community and lost a real say it the running of their community.

But Gerry says changes need to be done carefully and not done for changes sake. There should be real consultation with all shires and communities within those shires before any ill thought out decisions are made.

Gerry says that the balance needs to be found between economic sustainability, good governance and the practicalities of serving remote communities.

If not then councils may find themselves in financial difficulty and either go broke or not deliver on core councils services.

Because councils receive money from the Commonwealth on a population basis there is not a lot of money to go around which means a Country Liberal’s Government would have to guarantee that these new shires received sufficient money to operate successfully, otherwise the new shires will fail.

That guarantee of adequate financial backing must be set in concrete.