MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

DATE 13/4/11
To contact Gerry: 8983 1302(bh)  8983 1237(ah)  0428 698 037(mobile)

RURAL TO URBAN BY STEALTH
‘SNEAKY BUGGERS’

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the Government is trying to urbanise the rural area by stealth.

Gerry says that he is firstly making it clear that he does not oppose some limited urban development within rural district centres.

But he says that when he saw for the first time at a meeting tonight the plans where the Humpty Doo Village Centre had a main street (Arnhem Highway) 7 kms long, he nearly fell over; that is from the traffic lights on the Stuart Highway to the Humpty Doo Pub.

The Government has done this sleight of hand so it can rezone the land along the way into one acre or 4000 sqm blocks rather than the presently allowed 1 hectare or 2.5 acre blocks.

Gerry says this attempt to lower the minimum lots size has been as the result of pressure by certain developers and not some groundswell by the people for smaller blocks.

Under this plan a huge area around Noonamah would be covered in 4000sq metre blocks - possibly 1800 blocks.

Gerry says he has no problem with smaller blocks within a district centre surrounded by rural blocks but the Noonamah Centre would be 5kms long along the Stuart Highway under the new plan.

Similar for Freds Pass where the Government plans to subdivide the Howard Springs South Defence land and Berno’s land into 800-4000sqm blocks under the umbrella of Coolalinga/Freds Pass Principal Activity Centre – whatever that means!

Gerry says the Government is looking at over 1000 blocks in the Howard Springs Forestry land double what is permitted now and trying to call it a neighbourhood centre. They have also planned for 450 urban size blocks south of Wallaby Holtze Road which will not please the locals at all. There are also issues at Coolalinga as well.

Gerry says he reiterates that limited development around district centres would be approved by most but not like what is being proposed. Gerry said most people only found out about these changes when they were handed a booklet tonight and would not have had time to read or understand what it all meant. He said that the legends on the maps did not indicate any change in the minimum lots size in the rural area.
Gerry says if people want to have a say they need to be at the Howard Hall on Whitewood Road Howard Springs this Thursday (13\textsuperscript{th} April) at 6pm or at Bees Creek Primary School on Friday at 6pm. The problem is the block size changes weren’t advertised so it will be difficult for people to find about the meeting in time.