TIME TO GET REAL AT MARRARA

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that it’s time for the Government to look at employing a full time qualified green keeper whose job would be to maintain all sporting ovals and fields at Marrara.

Gerry says that there is more to maintaining turf than mowing the lawn, turning the water on and spreading a bit of fertilizer around.

Gerry says that problems with Marrara may never have occurred if a full time qualified green keeper had been employed from the beginning to make sure that Government assets were maintained at the appropriate high standard that you would expect.

He says that it would also be better for the greenkeeper to have his/her own full time staff and equipment, and not rely on a contractor who may have other work to do as well.

Gerry says he has heard that TIO number one oval has had problems with thatching which may have been caused for a number of reasons. TIO number two oval urgently needs work also as it presently looks and smells like land that has just gone under a flood. These problems may have never surfaced if an expert in turf management had been employed.

He says that surely with 2 soccer fields, 2 rugby fields, 2 cricket grounds, 2 league fields, 2 AFL grounds, an athletic centre and lots of trees, garden and carparking areas to be maintained there would be cost savings and some uniform expertise across the whole facility if the Government employed a specialist.

If we are to attract the best of all codes to the Top End then we must have the best people to make it happen.