Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the Minister Karl Hampton must act decisively by taking on the coordinators if mediation talks are unsuccessful on Tuesday.

Gerry says he wonders if approvals granted to certain coordinators and suppliers to operate were given without making sure they comply with the Container Deposit Scheme Principles and have effective waste management arrangements in place which *established standard and transparent processes for receiving and paying refund amounts and handling costs by CDS participants*.

Gerry says that if this isn’t the case, then why have beverage companies received supply approvals.

If negotiation and the softly softly approach does not work and if collectors are closing, then the Minister should use the powers he has under the Act and threaten the companies with suspension or cancellation of their supply approval in the NT.

Gerry says the public will lose faith in the system if the impasse is not resolved and collectors close down. The only people who will then win will be the beverage companies which is what they’ve always wanted – the destruction of the scheme.

*Cessi fora gallinarum sed surgo*