REGONAL WASTE SITE URGENTLY
NEEDED FOR RURAL RESIDENTS

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that for about the last 15 years there have been discussions with Top End councils over a regional waste facility.

Since then very little has happened and with the Government closing down the Humpty Doo Tip and not agreeing to the opening of a new site on Sunday Creek, all of Litchfield Council’s rubbish is now transported the long distance to Darwin City Council’s Tip at Shoal Bay.

A site for a regional waste facility was selected by the Government in 2002 on the Howard Peninsula, north of the new prison site.

The Government has now said that the site is not suitable due to environmental constraints.

Gerry says that unfortunately little appears to have been done to find a new site, one that would be environmentally suitable but also one that was located on land accessible to Litchfield and Coomalie Councils and the proposed city of Weddell.

He said there is an urgent need for the Government to speed up an investigation of possible sites so that rural residents and contractors have a local place for their rubbish and not have to pay for their rubbish to be transported long distances to a tip in Darwin.

And he says there is even a more urgent need to have sites for dry waste materials, such as concrete, next to existing rural transfer stations, as the bush will continue to be the alternative dump site for this material if nothing is done.