Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the announcement by the Minister for Education to scrap funding for the Manager’s Position for the CSIRO Education Centre shows little knowledge about the position and its importance and scant regard for the promotion of science.

Gerry says he supports the stance by the Member for Goyder that the position should be reinstated as it plays an important part in so many ways such as:

- The delivery throughout the whole of the Northern Territory (including urban, regional and remote Government and non-Government schools) of 19 in school hands on science programs which include pre and post teacher notes based on the Australian Curriculum. In the past year 12000 Northern Territory students were actively involved in these programs.

- The Double Helix Science Club and related activities. Double Helix offers a range of engaging, hands on science events and activities for school age children from ages 7 and up from the Education Centre in Berrimah and also in regional areas across the Northern Territory. This program runs on weekends, after school and during school holidays. Currently there are approximately 250 members Territory wide.

- Linking teachers to the Scientist in Schools and Mathematicians in School programs. These programs create and support long-term partnerships between scientists or mathematicians, and teachers in primary and secondary schools. The partnerships are supported by resources, emails, phone calls and face to face events. This program links into the “Science for Human Endeavour” strand in the Australian Curriculum.

- Organisation of the CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) program. CREST is a non-competitive awards program which encourages and supports primary and secondary students to choose, organise and undertake their own practical science or technology project. CREST aligns with the “Science Inquiry Skills” strand of the Australian Curriculum and can be used for individual students, classes, year groups or a whole school activity.

- Professional Development and support for science programs based on the Australian Curriculum for all teachers in Government and Independent primary and secondary schools throughout the Northern Territory.
• Northern Territory Chairman for Science Week in the Northern Territory. This involves coordinating funding for Science Week and organising community activities in the Northern Territory for students and the general public.

• Delivery of CSIRO School Holiday Programs involving the following organisations; Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin City Council and Palmerston Libraries, Darwin Waterfront Corporation and the YMCA.

• In-kind support to the Northern Territory Space School, Engineering Challenge, Young Scientists Awards Night, Sustainability Schools Summit, School Science Fairs and Teddy Bears Picnic.

Gerry says he has been told that the above programs, activities and resources delivered by the CSIRO Science Education Centre will not be available in their current form to Northern Territory students, schools and the wider community if funding is not provided for the Managers Position.

Gerry says that the Girraween Primary School Field Day, Science Day at Taminmin College and activities at other rural school will be worse off now, with the loss of CSIRO.

_Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo_