SURPRISE, A PLANNER ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION!

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says at last the Government has put a planner on the Planning Commission.

Gerry says that one of a number of flaws in the Act which set up the Planning Commission is that there is no requirement to have a planner on the Planning Commission, and there still isn’t but at least the Government has appointed planner Graham Bailey to fill one of the five vacancies available after the formal positions were filled.

Gerry also says that the Planning Commission unfortunately still does not have a member of the community such as a representative from PLAN to give a grass roots perspective or perhaps this didn’t fit into the mould the Government wanted for this Commission and the non appointment was deliberate.

He says just like the EPA, the Planning Commission will have a conflict of interest as both Gary Nairn (Chair) and Bill Freeland (Chair of the EPA) will be on both boards meaning they will always have a conflict of interest.

But this does not appear to worry the Government when they passed the legislation last sittings which exempted these people from a conflict of interest – how convenient.

Neither the EPA nor the Planning Commission can therefore claim to be independent as hard as the Government might try to spin that this is not the case.

Gerry says he congratulates Graham Bailey for being on the Planning Commission as the only qualified planner and he knows he will do a good job.

But Gerry said he will be interested to see how the Planning Commission tackles proposals to dam the Elizabeth River and Ludmilla Creek, and ‘densification’ in the rural area, to see whether their decisions reflect the people’s views or views of just the developers and the Government.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surge