BANNED DRINKERS REGISTER NEVER GIVEN A CHANCE TO WORK

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the Banned Drinkers Register was never given a proper chance to see if it would work.

Gerry says the CLP condemned it from day one and made the scrapping of it an election promise.

After the election they said they found statistics to prove it hadn’t worked, an argument that was hollow because it didn’t matter, they had already made up their mind to scrap the register before any statistics were available.

The CLP scrapped it because they didn’t want to upset drinkers. It had nothing to do with any proof that it did or did not work. They condemned it from day one. It was a purely political decision.

Gerry said the Banned Drinkers Register trial should have been allowed to continue for another two years so that a real evaluation of its effectiveness could have been done and also to allow for any amendments to see if it could have been improved. Only then could a mature decision have been made to see whether the BDR should have continued or scrapped.

Gerry said he had doubts about the effectiveness of the BDR when it was introduced because of secondary supply, but believed that it should have been given a real chance to see if it worked. The CLP made sure that didn’t happen.

Gerry says he agrees with Opposition Leader Tony Abbott’s call for the BDR to be preserved and would like to now know what the CLP thinks of their national leader’s support for it.