Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says after a briefing from the Department of Land Management Resources today he is now satisfied that the application for a water licence on Stylo Farm in Mataranka was done correctly and with a 10 year crop plan approved by the Department of Primary Industry.

He said that this was a new application and had been adjudicated on its merit by the water controller.

Gerry says he is satisfied that there was no political interference in the decision.

Gerry says he still has a number of concerns.

The Mataranka Water Plan is still a draft and needs to be ratified quickly.

The Water Advisory Committee should have been involved in the recommendations re this licence approval.

The water allocation of 5800ML was too large and that a smaller amount should have been granted to see if the 10 year plan was a goer before issuing more water.

Gerry also said that there are other growers in the district who want more water and have been growing crops for years and they should have received an increase in their water licence before a new licence was approved.

And Gerry thinks that the Government needs to explain why it took away the Indigenous Water Allocation when the Government often talks about getting Aboriginal people off welfare.

Gerry says we need to have sustainable development that is done in an open, transparent and equitable way. He says the comment by some members of the government about ‘we are about development’ is not an excuse for repeating mistakes of the Territory past.