JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP MUST EMPLOY LOCALS

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he congratulates Larrakia Development Corporation on joining forces with ESS Compass in a joint venture partnership for the operation and maintenance of the Inpex Village at Howard Springs.

Gerry says that whilst this opens up the opportunity for Aboriginal employment especially for those living at the 15 Mile community something that Gerry very much welcomes, he says all rural residents must be also given an opportunity for jobs at the Inpex Village.

Gerry said that during the many planning discussions with Inpex about the location and impacts of the village on the Howard Springs community, it was said on a number occasions that as part of offsetting the impacts of this development there should be opportunities for locals to be employed.

Gerry says he hopes this was a requirement by Inpex when it set out the terms and conditions of the contract for the operation and maintenance of the village.

He says the village has already had a huge impact on the Howard Springs community and making sure that locals have a priority when applying for work at the village, is one way of balancing the ledger and allowing locals to share in the employment opportunities that come from this development.