Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says it’s disappointing but not surprising that the leader of our NT Government says that drinking in the NT should be a ‘core social value’ as reported by the ABC.

Gerry says it is crazy for our leaders to say that the Government should be supporting the liquor industry. The industry is powerful enough and profitable enough to do that on its own.

Gerry says the Government should not be jumping into bed with the AHA, but instead keeping arm’s length from the liquor industry so that decisions the Government makes about alcohol are not influenced by an obvious close relationship with the AHA as appears now evident.

He says that the AHA is a very powerful body that does influence political parties. The Newcastle hotel closing hours supported by the NSW Police Association and Newcastle doctors, nurses and paramedics was opposed by the AHA.

He says, guess what, the reason the Newcastle option has not been tried in other cities is because of the powerful influence the AHA has had on recent NSW Governments.

See what would happened if you tried the Newcastle option in Mitchell Street?

Alcohol is a legal drug in our society and when used properly does no harm. But in the Territory as can be seen by the number of deaths on the roads, admissions to hospitals, domestic violence, family breakdowns, binge drinking, diabetes, and other effects for many it does cause harm.

Gerry says it is not a simple case as Adam Giles said to the AHA ‘This is our lifestyle; this is the way we live’.

He says statements like that from the CLP supporting the AHA seems to be about pandering to mates and clouding over the reality.

Gerry says maybe seeing so many people, especially Aboriginal people, die from the effects of the abuse of alcohol since he has lived in the Territory (half of the thirty boys he looked after at Daly River in the 70’s died under the age of 21 because of grog) has coloured his views but he says for the CLP to promote the alcohol industry makes him despair about the lack of real leadership in the Northern Territory.
Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo