DATE 26/8/13
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MINISTER RIGHT ON HEIGHT AND SPACE

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he supports the comments made by the Minister for Lands and Planning regarding the planning for tall buildings in the Darwin CBD.

Gerry says he said the same thing to the previous Government back in 2008 (see attached press release) but they left vested interests to decide on a CBD planning policy which is why we have buildings up against the footpath and up against one another – no thought of a tropically designed city.

The formula for height should be based on the size of the block and that formula should include open space and setbacks.

But Gerry says when you look at places like Surfers Paradise which has tall buildings you will also notice they are well apart with tropical gardens and footpaths between them.

Naturally with taller buildings there is more pressure on infrastructure – roads, water, sewerage, and electricity – so that must be taken into account before approvals are given.

Gerry says some of our best buildings in Darwin are the ones with space around them such as the old Seville Hotel and the Marrakai Apartments. Unfortunately there are a lot of new buildings in Darwin that have no space and no tropical atmosphere and just look the same.

Surely we can do better than that!

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo