Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the proposed new hospital at Holtze (not Palmerston) opens up some new development opportunities for the rural area.

Firstly, the extension of Temple Terrace across the Stuart Highway could join up with Willard Road which is the road to the new prison. This would enable staff at the prison to have a direct link to Palmerston instead of using the busy Howard Springs Road. It would also give residents of Howard River Park and Whitewood Park an alternative route to Palmerston and the city also relieving the amount of traffic using Howard Springs Road.

Secondly, Gerry says, the new road is an opportunity for the Government to sell off land along the road for a much needed rural subdivision. A large new water main is presently being installed to the prison and there is sufficient capacity in the main to supply rural (1Ha) blocks in the area. Gerry says about 100 blocks could be released quickly if the Government fast tracked the Temple Terrace extension.

Thirdly, there is an opportunity for residents along Wallaby Holtze Road to be hooked up to the town water supply something many of them have been asking for many number of years.

Gerry says the hospital site is a much better than the previous site as there is far more room for future expansion. He says his only gripe is the name – as it is located in the rural area (not Palmerston) it should be called the Litchfield and Palmerston Regional or District Hospital.