Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he had a good laugh this morning when he read in the NT News, the Chief Minister’s comments about the proposed Alcohol Protection Orders.

The Chief Minister is quoted as saying ‘Labor should stop defending the perpetrators of these crimes and listen to the advice of police and the Hotels Association who both support these laws’.

Gerry says the joke is that both the Chief Minister, the Police Commissioner and the AHA ridiculed and rejected a proposal that was put before Parliament at the last sittings which asked for a relatively minor change to closing hours in Mitchell St backed by real evidence, which would have reduced alcohol fuelled violence.

The CM had the chance to show he was serious about alcohol fuelled violence but didn’t want to upset his friends at the AHA.

Now he expects Gerry and others in Parliament to support a no-evidence-based piece of legislation because of advice from the Police Commissioner and of all people, the AHA.

Gerry says advice coming from the AHA and backed by a CM (alcohol is a ‘core social value’) is so funny it is laughable.