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SELECT COMMITTEE SHOULD LOOK
AT THE SPLITTING UP OF PWC

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says that the government should set up a Parliamentary select committee to scrutinise the three bills presented in Parliament today which will allow, if passed, the splitting up of Power and Water Corporation.

Gerry says these are very significant bills and the public, workers and management and members of Parliament need to have a role to play in the debate around these bills.

He said that in Queensland, which has a unicameral system of Parliament like in the NT, a select committee looks at legislation that has been introduced, and when it has scrutinised the legislation, they send it back with or without amendments to the Parliament for it to be voted on.

Gerry says that if the Government believes the Parliamentary Accounts Committee or the Energy Committee could do the job, then refer these bills to either committee.

Gerry says if the Government doesn’t want to do that they are obviously scared of detailed public scrutiny of these bills.

Gerry says the Government will also argue that they don’t want to be run by committees, but Gerry says that on important pieces of legislation that’s what committees are for.

The Queensland Parliamentary Web site sums it up perfectly, and Queensland has the same unicameral system as us

Committees allow the Parliament to ensure that the right decisions are being made at the right time and for the right reasons. At the same time they effectively enhance the democratic process by taking the Parliament to the people and giving them a role in its operations.

Gerry says that’s why we need a committee to scrutinise these bills.