DATE 26/2/14

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GOVERNMENT SELLS OUT GOOD PLANNING FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says it is extremely disappointing that Minister Chandler has rezoned rural land outside of the Humpty Doo District Centre to SD (Single Dwelling) and MD (Multiple Dwelling).

Gerry can’t believe that the Minister would go against the present Litchfield Land Use Objectives or even wait for the review of the Activity Centres (District Centres) in the Greater Darwin plan to be completed.

Gerry says that the Land Use Objectives clearly states that the provision of urban sized blocks will be in appropriately serviced district centres.

He says this development is not in an appropriately serviced centre! It’s is on rural zoned land.

Gerry says that the Minister’s reasons for the rezoning are
‘The rezoning will contribute to a built environment supporting the diverse lifestyle and the social, cultural and economic of the Territory promoting housing choice and therefore housing affordability targets’

Gerry says that besides the reasons being poorly written (what comes after economic?) the statement is pure political propaganda or straight out of the election promises handbook as it doesn’t make any sense and has nothing to do with good planning. It’s just plain twaddle!

As for affordable housing – that is purely put in applications for rezoning to keep the Government happy – could the Minister please state what housing affordable means in real dollars – you can bet the single income family with a couple of kids won’t be buying here.

And for housing choice and diverse lifestyle, we have it already – rural living and urban living in the appropriately serviced centres – Humpty Doo. There already is a stack of empty land in the Humpty Doo District Centre zoned for residential development waiting to be developed.
Gerry says this is a win for developers, a loss for those many rural people who opposed this rezoning and a slap in the face for good planning.

Gerry says it is also sets a bad precedence and some developers must be licking their lips. It looks like the Government is willing to sacrifice rural living and good planning to find an easy way of reaching its housing targets.

He says this decision now pre-empts the Greater Darwin Plan and residents would not be blamed if they thought the Greater Darwin Plan was only a smokescreen for community consultation, when in reality it will basically stay as it is—a developers dream.

The decision sux!

Cessi fera gallinarum sed surgo