INDEPENDENT UNITS NEED CONTROLS, GOVERNMENT FORGETS THE NEIGHBOURS

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says he understands why the Government wants to allow independent units in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area but that shouldn’t mean that neighbours should be prohibited from having a say if a landowner wants to build a second dwelling (independent unit) next door.

Gerry says the new planning direction states the following:

*The primary purpose of this clause is to ensure that an independent unit does not detrimentally impact on the amenity of adjoining and nearby property and remains ancillary to the single dwelling on the site.*

He says the Government changes to the NT Planning Scheme show that approval for an independent unit is not a required because anyone can build a dependent unit as long it fits within certain guidelines that deal with water, sewerage and power - but amenity is not required to be considered.

Gerry says if people want to build an independent unit then planning approval should be required first and neighbours should have a say.

He says the Government’s Open for Business policy is not an excuse for poor planning decisions or removing the rights of Territorians.

He says independent units need to be assessed by the DCA first, so that other people’s lives are not stuffed up by an inconsiderate and poor thought-out Government decision and he calls on the Government to change the rules that allow that to happen.