Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says he has moved a disallowance motion which will be debated in Parliament on April 30th to stop changes which the Government has brought in under the cover of regulations.

- These changes would allow the cap on the number of pokies in the NT to be removed and
- Pubs to increase the number of pokies they can have from 10 to 20 machines and allow
- Clubs to increase their number of machines from 45 to 55.

Gerry says the Government announced these changes on a Friday night last December after Parliament had finished sitting.

He said changes to the number of pokies should have been a matter discussed with the community not just the Australian Hotels Association NT (AHANT) who were the ones lobbying for the change.

Gerry says there are many concerns that need to be addressed especially around the social impacts that may be caused by an increase in the number of machines.

He said when he did some calculations based
- on every existing pub and club taking up the maximum number of machines plus
- any new pubs and clubs also buying their quota plus
- the more than a 1000 machines at the casinos it works out we could have about one machine per 55 Territorians!

Gerry says he will be calling on the Government to put a stop to the changes. He says a public consultation process should be commenced so that the community can have a say about the proposal and then the Government should take the results of that consultation back so Parliamentarians can also have a say, something that has been conveniently avoided so far.