Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says planning in the rural area is a joke.

He said the joke goes like this.

- In 2012 Government sets up a Planning Commission with no planners – ha ha
- Planning Commissions employs a company to consult with community re the Greater Darwin Regional Plan – ha ha
- Rural consultation involves information displays (3 hours at 3 different shopping centres), meetings with selected Government departments, NGO and developers, and a request for website responses (11 responses). – ha ha
- Planning Commission held no public meetings- ha ha
- Petition with 1000 signatures opposing urban development of Holtze/Howard Springs delivered to Government – ah ha!
- Planning Commission produces two draft plans - ignores concerns reflected in petition – ha ha
- Gerry accuses Planning Commission of not properly consulting – ah ha!
- Independent public meetings held at Holtze, Acacia and Bees Creek show strong opposition to urbanisation of rural areas –ah ha!
- Three independent questionnaires from Holtze, Acacia and Bees Creek areas show people overwhelmingly opposition to moves to urbanise rural area –ah ha!
- Regardless, Government approves the Greater Darwin Regional Plans which urbanise large portions of the rural area – ha ha
- Government about to approve small block subdivision in Bees Creek but stops at the last minute because of public anger – ha ha
- Government/Planning Commission now decides after approving the Greater Darwin Regional Plan to consult by using a telephone company in SA to ask rural residents would they like small blocks. – ha ha ha ha

Gerry says that the joke is that the Government/Planning Commission is now spending thousands of dollars on a telephone survey to gauge people’s views after they said they had consulted and after they have approved the Greater Darwin Regional Plan.

Gerry says the Greater Darwin Regional Plan should be scrapped, the Planning Commission should also be scrapped and replaced with a body predominately made up of planners, and consultation should involve public meetings, a range of alternative...
plans and public workshops similar to the Weddell design workshops held some years ago.

Then at least the community can be informed, make informed decisions and can feel they are part of the decision making process.

Then we can stop laughing.

*Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo*