Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, wants to know who runs Government planning – the Government or the Planning Commissioner.

Gerry says comments by the Planning Commissioner that urban development near the new hospital is inevitable gives one the impression that the Planning Commissioner is the supreme ruler, the Government doesn’t care and the peasants should shut up, stop complaining or go away.

Gerry says the new hospital will obviously need some urban development nearby for staff but to say that the rest of Holtze should be developed into suburbs because of a hospital defies logic. Just over the Stuart Highway is Palmerston full of people living in suburbs who will use the hospital.

If the new hospital had been built next to the Superclinic in Palmerston as originally planned would you still need to urbanise Holtze? No.

Gerry says that the Planning Commission only consulted after local residents and the local member complained, so to say that this new Holtze Plan was developed after public consultation doesn’t state that the fact that the Planning Commission was dragged kicking and screaming along to consult.

But the worse thing is that whether there was consultation or not it was inevitable that the Government and the Planning Commission had no real intention of listening to anyone.

That’s the only thing that was inevitable.