Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, said there was standing room only at Parliament House last night to hear people’s views on the future of Richardson Park.

He said that the majority of nearly 100 people who attended were not happy with the Government’s decision to upgrade the Park but there were a number of passionate rugby league supporters who voiced their views supporting the Treasurer’s decision.

Gerry says the Government had heads of Departments in attendance explaining what the new facility would look like and answering questions from the public.

Gerry says that Dave Tollner when asked about consultation claimed that people were being consulted and the meeting was an example of that consultation.

But what Dave didn’t explain at the meeting was, as the Parliamentary Accounts Committee had found out, that there had been no consultation by the Government (Dave) with any of the sporting bodies or any of the relevant Government departments until after the Government had made the decision to spend $20m on into Richardson Park; nor was there a business plan.

In other words the Government had made up its mind and consultation was not about whether the project should go ahead or not but what will the new stadium look like – in other words the Richardson Park expansion was a fait accompli.

Gerry says Dave, instead of rubbishing the PAC and its findings, should accept those findings especially Recommendation 3

- The Committee recommends that Cabinet reconsider which option for a rectangular stadium provides the best value to the Northern Territory having regard to the full costs and benefits of reasonable options.

Gerry says that a fair dinkum Treasurer surely would support such a recommendation but it seems that for Dave being a true blue Parramatta Eels supporter is more important.