RURAL RESIDENTS WANT A SLOW DOWN

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, said it was clear from a Development Consent Authority meeting held in Howard Springs on Friday night that rural residents are very unhappy about the proposed Litchfield Sub Regional Plan.

The meeting was held to hear the views of rural residents in relation to the Plan. It was chaired by the DCA chair, Denis Burke.

Gerry said that at the meeting, attended by about 100 people, it was clear that many believed the Planning Commission had not consulted properly and that the consultation process was more about ticking the boxes rather than listening to the concerns of residents.

As well, Gerry said, the residents were concerned about the speed the Activity Plans were being pushed through without residents having a detailed understanding of what this plan would do to the rural area if approved in its present state by the Minister.

Gerry says one of the most important statements made at the meeting came from the Litchfield Council who did not support the plan. To highlight the many flaws in this plan, the council gave a very detailed and reasoned analysis clearly supported by many of those attending as heard by the generous applause that followed.

Gerry says it was clear from the meeting that others were not happy with the urban/peri urban areas such as Noonamah Ridge that had been approved by the Minister. Local residents felt that their views had not been asked for or just been ignored.

Gerry says he was not the organiser of this meeting, so the Minister cannot repeat what he wrote to me recently

Gerry it is incumbent on you as an elected representative of part of the rural area to present the facts accurately rather than the scaremongering that you have been engaging in.

This was the people talking, not Gerry Wood scaremongering, and the Minister needs to listen just for once and do the right thing. After all what’s the rush?