Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says Litchfield rate notices have just been sent out and Coolalinga residents find themselves paying nearly $500 more in rates than other residents in the Council area.

Gerry says last night he met a young family with a new baby living at Coolalinga who were nearly in tears because they have been charged nearly $500 extra for living in Coolalinga. The normal flat residential rate is $1118 but for this family it will be $1604 just because they live in Coolalinga.

He says this is simply a money grab by the Council as other similar areas such as in Humpty Doo and Howard Springs are not charged the extra $500. Instead they pay the same flat residential rate that everyone else pays throughout the Council area.

Gerry says there is absolutely no justification for this extra charge as people living in Coolalinga receive no more council services than anyone else in the area i.e. they take their own rubbish to the tip or get a private rubbish collector to pick the rubbish up.

He says ever since the first blocks were turned off at Coolalinga he has asked the Council why it is charging above the present residential flat rate for residents in Coolalinga and he has never received a logical or reasonable answer.

Gerry says he believes the Council saw this development as a financial windfall and before anyone actually lived in Coolalinga they made a decision to use this subdivision to make money and subsequent councils have not bothered to reverse this decision.

Gerry says the Council has always supported a flat rate for residential blocks regardless of the size of the block and should continue with that policy unless it has a mandate to change it. Coolalinga residents are being discriminated against just because of where they live.

Gerry calls on the Council to immediately reverse the decision to charge residents nearly $500 more in rates and instead simply include residential blocks in Coolalinga with all other residential blocks in the Council area and charge them the same rate.
This is bad public policy.

For more information you can contact the family - Danielle Bailey on 0488 696 131.

Attached is her photo.