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NOW TIME TO RELEASE THE DARWIN ABORIGINAL TOWN COMMUNITIES REVIEW

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says with the release of the investigation into town camps in Alice Springs it’s time for the Government to release the other review into Aboriginal town communities in the Darwin region.

He said the Government has the Deloitte report which was completed in late March but it seems doubts have been expressed within Government about whether it will be ever released.

Gerry says there are major issues in these communities – ownership of land, housing, governance, social disorder, alcohol and drugs, suicides, visitors and lack of a long term vision.

He said two of the communities are in his electorate and neither the previous Government nor the Gunner Government have done anything even though Gerry has called for something to be done for years. On the ground nothing has changed.

Gerry says what he finds disappointing is that Deloitte haven’t even bothered to contact him for some input into their review even though he has been pushing Governments for years to do something. He says now it looks like the report is complete and to make matters worse may never be released.

Gerry says there are people in these communities who want to live in peace and raise a family and have a say in their community but presently that is very difficult because the Gunner Government has a blind spot when it comes to doing something – the same blind spot the Giles Government also had.

Gerry says the local service provider Yili Housing has come up with some plans for the future of the Knuckey Lagoon and 15 Mile communities which are refreshing and positive but unless the Government supports these plans then life will go on and on as it has always been.

Closing the Gap needs decisive action not pretty words.

Attached are three pictures which simply reflect the depressing and woeful state of affairs.