DATE: 25/7/18  To contact Gerry: 89996713 (bh) 8983 1237 (ah) 0428 698 037 (mobile)

LITCHFIELD COUNCIL INTENDS TO TAKE OVER TAMINMIN COLLEGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND NOW WANTS RATEPAYERS TO PAY – MAKES NO SENSE.

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says a motion passed at the recent Litchfield Council meeting to enter into a five year funding agreement with the Government to take over the Taminmin library defies logic.

Gerry says for only two out of three councillors with two were not in attendance to support this motion, especially as the library is presently funded by the NT Government, is very disappointing and bewildering as this will only add another cost to ratepayers.

Gerry says he does not remember any councillors supporting taking over Taminmin library at the last council elections.

He says 2017 library survey by a Sydney Company, paid for by the council, about a library did not ask the simple question – Do you think Litchfield council should fund a library considering we already have a community library funded by the Government?

Gerry says on top of that there was only 73 Litchfield respondents who answered the survey and the majority of those appeared happy with the existing Taminmin Community Library.

Gerry says Litchfield Council has a number of responsibilities it is required to provide for its ratepayers and up till now libraries has not been one of those responsibilities. The Council’s 2017 Community Survey Report did not include any question regarding libraries.

Gerry says a decision about taking over Taminmin community library should either be dropped from the agenda or put back to the people either by a reply paid survey attached to the rate notice or tested at the next election where candidates can state their view.

Ratepayers would need to know what it would cost before responding to any survey. Alice Springs council library costs $1.54m to operate each year with the council’s share $947,000. History shows that when a council takes over a library from the Government the council will get a sweetener in dollars for the first five years and then be left holding most of the baby afterwards.

The fundamental question is why our council would take over a library which already serves the community and is funded by the Government. – it just doesn’t make sense?