GEES, SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN!

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says it seems Labor has learnt its lesson from the Floor Price PR debacle and will send the proposed changes to liquor licensing fees to a Scrutiny Committee.

He says Minister Fyles has indicated that the Legislation won’t be introduced until next year and will go out to the community and licensees for comment – plenty of time to send it for scrutiny.

Gerry says this appears to be a change from the Government’s previous approach to recent liquor law changes where the Government avoided scrutiny via the Scrutiny Committees using the excuse that Justice Riley’s recommendations had been accepted and so further discussion was not warranted.

Gerry said this was because Minister Fyles broke her promise to require all Bills to go to a Scrutiny Committee which is the reason why the Minister has now got herself into a pickle.

Gerry says he tried to reverse the decision of Minister Fyles to change her new policy of picking and choosing what Bills she wanted to go before Scrutiny Committees but that was defeated in Parliament, hence the reason for Gerry’s resignation from the Scrutiny Committee.

Gerry says regardless he supports the new liquor licensing proposals going to the Scrutiny Committee – something to do with Opening Parliament to the People!

He says the Minister has now back flipped on her previous arguments about not sending alcohol Bills to a Scrutiny Committee. Perhaps she and the Government have learnt a hard lesson about putting spin ahead of common sense and not breaking promises – but only perhaps!