Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says rural people have been left high and dry by both political parties.

Gerry moved that people living in the rural area on blocks in the RLI (Rural Living 1) and RL2 (Rural Living 2) Zones should have the right to appeal planning decisions – third party appeal rights.

Presently because the Government regards RL1 and RL2 rural zones as not residential it does not give people living on those blocks the right to appeal.

According to the government it always promised limited third party appeals. It argues that that means RL1 and RL2 landowners are out of the loop.

Gerry put forward today a small amendment to the regulations which would have changed the definition of RL2 and RL2 to be classified as residential allowing people on those blocks the right to third party appeals.

Unfortunately both the ALP including rural members and the CLP would not support the motion and the CLP didn’t even speak on the matter.

Gerry received solid support from fellow Independent Loraine Braham (Member for Braitling) who also supported the rights of rural people to have third party appeals.

Gerry says he hopes the Minister will change his mind and bring forward changes at the next sittings.

Until that happens rural people will be discriminated against under the Planning Act, unfortunately a discrimination supported by both parties.