NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES – IMPOSED OR DEBATED?

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, wants to know if the Government has simply decided what the new local government boundaries will be (a bit like changes to the speed limits) and decreed that the changes will happen or has there been any real discussion with the people and existing local governments.

Gerry says that any Government that believes in consultation surely would discuss the boundary changes with local governments and communities before making a firm announcement on the boundaries.

He also finds it surprising that the 4th biggest municipality in the NT (Litchfield) is not even represented on the Northern Advisory Board. What’s more the board is only an advisory board designed to sell the Government’s predetermined changes instead of being a consultative board which would listen to the concerns of the community.

Once again is this a case of big brother knows best? Local government needs reform but imposing it without real consultation and debate is a recipe for failure.