Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that it is not acceptable that the Litchfield Shire, which has around 17,000 people, is the 4th largest municipality in the Territory, and is one of the few existing municipalities to be dissolved, is not represented either on the main Local Government advisory board, meeting today, or the Northern Advisory Board which will look at the changes to local government.

Gerry wonders whether the Government has done this deliberately because of the poor relationship between the Government and Litchfield Shire Council.

Gerry says that it even gets worse when not even one of other three councils in the proposed new super council called Top-End Litchfield, is represented. This new super council will have the largest population of all the shires yet not one of the existing councils will be represented on the advisory boards.

Gerry says that the government should immediately put a representative from Litchfield Shire Council on the board, or if it won’t do that then at least the next biggest council, Coomalie.

People in the rural area are in for changes and they expect their local governments to be involved in the changes directly. The one thing they don’t want is for a Big Brother government or non related councils on an advisory board setting the functions, the rating systems and the number of councillors or wards without the locals having some say and some control over these matters.