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LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VAN PARK RESIDENTS

"People living permanently in caravan parks in the Northern Territory have no legal protection of their rights as tenants", said Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson.

"The situation at Sundowner Caravan Park, where residents do not know where they will be living after Christmas, can be avoided if there is legislation protecting their rights".

Gerry will introduce a Private Member's Bill in the November sittings of parliament to cover caravan park permanent residents and park owners.

"Both park owners and residents will benefit from having legislated rights and responsibilities".

"For instance, park owners need to be assured that their business will operate efficiently, with legislated requirements of residents paying their rent on time and not damaging communal facilities".

"And residents would benefit from knowing the owner must ensure park facilities are maintained to health and safety standards".

"Some other features may include having set procedures for when a park owner can increase rent and having a residents liaison committee to discuss issues with the owner".

Gerry welcomes any comments or ideas on what may be in the new law - from residents and park owners or managers.

"All other jurisdictions in Australia protect the rights of caravan park residents and owners".

"It is simply unjust that Territorians do not also have these rights".