Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the debate over the proposed Inpex gas plant in Darwin Harbour, highlights why the Territory needs an independent Environment Protection Agency that had power to decide over major development projects – not a body which just looks at processes and legislation.

Large developments like the gas plant should be assessed by an independent EPA, not by the Government. This would avoid the obvious conflict of interest the Government now has in the planning and approval processes required for the Inpex proposal especially now that the Minister for Planning has made herself the Development Consent Authority.

Gerry says the EPA could also look at the Glyde Point option as well as investigating the legitimacy of the Government’s dubious reasons for closing down the Glyde Point option.

On a related issue, Gerry says that whilst he would prefer Inpex to be built outside of the Harbour he will use arguments based on good planning and environmental reasons to support those arguments. He won’t support a video put out by the Environment Centre showing the spread of toxins across the harbour – that is a scare campaign using dubious science and does not help the cause of rational debate on this issue.