Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says it’s time the government started planning for a regional trail bike facility similar to the Wyaralong Regional Trail Bike Facility being constructed in South Eastern Queensland.

Gerry says with the popularity of quads and rally bikes in the Territory especially in the Darwin rural area, there needs to be a purpose built facility which allows riders to enjoy good quality trail bike riding.

Such a facility would cater for all grades of riders with different types of tracks with different levels of skill required.

The facility would need to be managed by a body like NT Motorsports who along with trail bike riders could help design and manage the facility.

The facility could attract not only locals but also interstate riders and with good quality camping facilities developed it would become an attraction for those escaping the cold down south and allow competitors or recreation riders to stay for extended periods.

Gerry says that another advantage is, if an area is specifically set out for such a facility then important considerations such as insurance for riders could be addressed through a small admission fee.

Another advantage would be that the environment would be better protected as this area would be set aside for quads and bikes while other areas which are presently being damaged at the moment would be off limits. There could also be an opportunity for existing land damaged by extractive mining to be included in the facility.

Gerry says the Wyaralong facility covers 745 hectares and an area that size, at least, could be set aside possibly along Gunn Point Road or on the Howard Peninsula, where many riders now ride.

Gerry says with all the problems of finding a place for the Kamfari each year, with complaints from some members of the public about the behaviour and noise of some off road enthusiasts, a trail bike facility may be the ideal solution to fix that as well.