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A DEBT WHEN IT SUITS?

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says politics can be the cause of a bout of severe cynicism especially when it comes to issues relating to the cuts to education.

The Government has said that there needs to be savings and in response to questions about cuts in education in Parliament have repeatedly responded with answers like;

*We are left with less money today simply because of the ill-founded spending that happened in the years under Labor. We are left with a situation where we need to learn to live within our means* or

*The problem is we have a debt situation in the Northern Territory that we need to deal with. However, the answer is not to continue to throw money and do it the way you guys did it for so long.* (Minister for Education)

But the Government then announces it will spend $14.6m ($3m from Inpex) on a new Northern Territory Open Education College, it spite of the fact that NTOEC are quite happy where they are.

On top of that, it is going to

- move the NT Music School to Sanderson High – exact cost unknown
- move NTOEC to Nightcliff Middle School – exact cost unknown
- move Participation and Pathways, and Teaching and Learning ICT to Harbour House – exact cost unknown.

Gerry says that if that is living ‘within our means’ whilst at the same time finding over $11m for a new school but unable to fund teachers and support staff, is it any wonder he is suffering from a bad dose of cynicism.

*Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo*