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To contact Gerry: 8999 6713(bh)  8983 1237(ah)  0428 698 037(mobile)

GOOD RURAL NEWS
FROM PLANNING MINISTER

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says he was pleased to hear the Planning Minister Chandler speak on radio this morning supporting the concept of allowing smaller blocks in rural District Centres and retaining rural blocks outside those areas.

Gerry says the along with the Member for Goyder, Kezia Purick have been promoting this very same concept and Gerry believes many rural dwellers also support this concept.

He said that unfortunately there have always been a number of influential developers and their friends who would like to see a carve-up of the rural area into non rural sized blocks under the guise of the need for affordable housing.

Gerry says that unfortunately the Planning Commission seems to have been influenced by this influential lobby as is seen in the Proposed Darwin Regional Plan where there is a planned creep of small blocks into the Holtze/Howard Springs area and the Noonamah and Hughes area. The Commission is also trying to expand District Centres far beyond their original design to sneak suburban development into areas that should remain rural.

Gerry says that to further disguise the change the Planning Commission has brought in a new concept of peri urban – planners love the name, but again it means small blocks and another attack on rural living.

Gerry says he hopes the Minister will stick to what he said on radio this morning and show his support for rural living when the final decisions are made about the Greater Darwin Plan.

Note. Reports on ABC radio about a ‘rural’ block being subdivided in Howard Springs are incorrect. The block of land is in the Howard Springs Village Centre and has been zoned for residential development for a number of years. This is in keeping with the concept the Minister, Gerry and the Member for Goyder support.