GOVERNMENT PLAYS THE MAN TO COVER UP ITS STUFF UP

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson says the Government lost a vote on a bill that they wanted to push through on urgency. The bill was about giving police powers to stop and search vehicles that may be carrying drugs without a warrant and without any suspicion that there may be drugs in the vehicle.

Gerry said the issue for him was that the proposed legislation was being rushed through and there needed to be more time to make sure this was sound legislation. He said it was so rushed that the Government hadn’t been bothered to send it to the Law Society or NAAJA for comment. They didn’t even send it to their own Ice Committee.

He said the legislation is important as it will restrict the transport of drugs but at the same time as a Member of Parliament, Gerry says, there needed to be enough time for the legislation to be properly scrutinised to make sure it is workable.

Gerry says that the Government has tried to cover up their stuff up by accusing him of abusing the situation now that the Government is in a minority.

Gerry says that he finds that offensive and shows a Government that has made a mistake, won’t admit it and now plays the man.

Gerry said he would have voted the same way even if there hadn’t been a majority.

Gerry says with a little more time he would be have been able to check out the Bill thoroughly, got some second opinions and even would have been happy to come back to Parliament early if that was needed.

Gerry does not want Ice in the community but neither does he want laws rammed through Parliament without them being properly checked first – that’s the role of an independent Member of Parliament.