Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says the move by the new Gunner Government last week to increase hourly rates for some workers by declaring two half holidays shows a Government already setting a poor standard.

He says that standard is to now avoid proper scrutiny when it comes to the process of setting wages and conditions for workers as well as avoiding any meaningful and honest discussion with employers about these proposed changes.

Gerry says if the Government thought it had a fair case they would have taken this to the Fair Work Commission.

The Fair Work Commission is Australia's national workplace relations tribunal. It is an independent body with power to carry out a range of functions including:

- providing a safety net of minimum conditions, including minimum wages in awards

He says to avoid this fair process; the Government has used a backdoor approach by simply changing two half days into public holidays. So those working on those days automatically get a pay rise without the matter being decided by an independent commission.

Gerry says he challenges the Gunner Government to take this matter to the Fair Work Commission and have it tested in an open and transparent manner so that all affected can argue their case.

He says the Chief Minister said on the first day that his Government was elected on a platform of trust, accountability and integrity and a commitment to govern for all Territorians.

Gerry says the Government has now failed on all three objectives and as for governing for all Territorians, he only meant those Territorians with a union ticket.

Gerry says the Labor needs to be reminded businesses are owned by workers too.

As for the excuse claimed by the Government that these new public holidays will help address a slowdown in population growth, all Gerry can say is, 'you cannot be serious'*. 

- John McEnroe

*Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo*