MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

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GOVERNMENT CONS PUBLIC RE HOWARD SPRINGS

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says promises given by the government to the Friends of the Springs in October this year have just been one big con.

Gerry says this is highlighted by the story in the NT News (Dec28th) which shows a ranger spraying the Springs with an anti bacterial spray.

He says the government promised to flush out the Springs and clean out the rotting vegetative matter that has accumulated over many years. This has not happened. Removing the vegetative matter is the key to reducing the source of the bacteria which is why the Springs have been closed for swimming for most of the last three years.

The Minister also promised a new bore to supply water to the Springs by October and this has not happened. Instead the Springs were topped up using free town water from the fire hydrant.

Gerry says that the government says there has been extensive works at the Springs – again another con. Fencing repairs had nothing to do with this issue, it was part of a Aboriginal training programme which repaired the boundary fence. Only a few trees have been pruned. The aerators were required to keep the fish alive and only installed after the Friends of the Springs and the local member publicly raised the issue. As for forming a planning team, locals have not been included and don’t know anything about the group.

To show how much the government wants to hide its lack of action and disguise its broken promises with spin, it now has told the Ranger at Howard Springs he is not to speak to the local member; so much for open and transparent government.

Gerry says he did wish the Ranger a Happy Christmas but all he could do is put a finger to his lips to indicate he could not reply.