GOVERNMENT JUST TALKS RUBBISH

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says comments by the Minister for Lands and Planning about the Humpty Doo Tip are simply rubbish.

The Litchfield Shire Council has for many years asked the government for an alternative site for landfill and governments of both persuasions have done nothing.

The Litchfield Shire Council cannot run a landfill site unless it is given land by the government and unless it is licensed by the government.

The Litchfield Shire Council job is to take rubbish from its three transfer stations at Howard Springs, Berry Springs and Humpty Doo and bury that rubbish at the Humpty Doo landfill site.

Because the Government wants to shut down Humpty Doo landfill, the council will now have to take all that rubbish to Shoal Bay at $40/tonne plus the extra transport costs.

Gerry says that the Minister knows that a regional waste site is not going to happen for years because Darwin City Council are not going to move from Shoal Bay, so a regional waste dump is no alternative.

Gerry says that when the Minister says that the council should use its $6m reserves he clearly does not understand why the council has those reserves. They are for the depreciation of assets and roads which in the case of Litchfield Shire Council amount to about $800m.

Gerry says that it will be interesting to hear what the Members for Goyder and Daly have to say and if they even understand the issue. They claim they are the rural voices but will they just hide behind party solidarity instead of sticking up for the interests of Litchfield ratepayers.

Gerry says that the government should get a life and do something practical for the environment by introducing Container Deposit Legislation but that’s too hard, picking on local government is a lot easier.