Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that one key ingredient has been left out of the Wadeye solution and that is reconciliation amongst aboriginal people. Even before the missionaries came to Port Keats there was feuding amongst the peoples of the region and if we are ever to move on there must be reconciliation amongst these groups.

Much has and is said about reconciliation between non aboriginal and aboriginal people but this will be just hot air and kite flying if there is not also reconciliation between aboriginal and aboriginal.

Whilst moving people back to their country may help the situation at Wadeye in the short term, if there is no commitment to living in peace and harmony with one another then the underlying hatred will just be hidden below the surface.

Gerry says that a cynic might say, if you can’t reconcile your own differences how can you expect others to do the same?

Law and order, housing, education, employment, and health are all matters that need attention but reconciliation must be the underlying elixir if there is to be a peaceful future for the peoples of this region.