ARMS, TRAFFIC, INPEX AND GRAVEL

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the Army has major concerns about large numbers of trucks carting gravel for Inpex using Thorngate Road.

Gerry says this message was conveyed to him recently following a discussion with Brigadier Gus MacLauchlan of Robertson Barracks.

Gerry says that each morning there is a large volume of Army traffic heading to the Barracks with long queues on the Stuart Highway turning right onto Tulagi Road and large trucks heading in the same direction will only make matters worse.

In the afternoon between 3.00pm and 5pm, again there is a heavy flow of traffic leaving the Barracks. Mixing large trucks at that time has potential safety problems with defence personnel wanting to get home after work.

On top of that, slow moving heavy trucks will be joining the afternoon peak hour traffic heading home along the Stuart Highway from the city and Northern Suburbs. This could lead to many frustrated drivers.

He says whilst the area to the east of the Barracks is an extractive mining area it wasn’t mentioned in the Environmental Statement by Inpex so it has come as a surprise that it now is an option.

Gerry says that the Army and other defence people are the main users of the proposed route, as well as locals in the Yarrawonga and Wallaby Holtze Road area, therefore there needs to be proper consultation with all stakeholders before any final decisions are made.

He had hoped to attend a meeting last Friday but it was cancelled.