



MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON



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CARAVAN PARK STEEP RATE RISE SHOWS CARAVAN PARK LEGISLATION IS NEEDED

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says residents of the Hidden Valley Tourist Park have been told their rates are to increase from \$175 per week to \$250 per week, the discounted Holiday Season Rate.

Steve Thomas, a resident at the park, said that many of the residents believed that as long term residents they were promised a fixed rate of \$175 through the peak season. Steve believes he and other residents were misled.

The Company believes that there may have been a misunderstanding or guests may have been given the wrong information and if that was the case they offered an apology.

Gerry says that more than ever this highlights the fact that there is a need for some legislation to make sure this type of dispute cannot occur. Gerry says it is obvious the Free Spirit Holiday Parks Company knows this as they say in the letter to Mr Thomas '*I must point out that the Residential (Tenancies) Act of the Northern Territory does not include caravan or sites within tourist park facilities*'.

Gerry says that the Government is now only looking at caravan park legislation (promised about 2 years ago). The Government threw out legislation Gerry introduced at the last sittings of Parliament.

Gerry says he hopes that the Company and the affected residents can work out a compromise and that a clear and precise set of rules for longer term guests is developed so this doesn't happen again.

Unfortunately that may have come too late for some residents who have been asked to leave.

Steve Thomas can be contacted on 0438 779 997

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo