The Territory Opposition are calling for a state funeral for Sam Calder, the WW2 fighter pilot, aviation pioneer, pastoralist and Territory politician.

“I was fortunate enough to have known Sam Calder and can vouch for his integrity and character as well as his extraordinary achievements for the Territory,” says Kezia Purick, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“Sam Calder made an enormous contribution to the development of the Territory and would be a worthy recipient of a state funeral.

“The Federal Government should re-think its refusal of to give Sam Calder a state funeral, but if it won’t, then the Territory Government should step into the breach.

“The fact Sam Calder played a prominent role in bringing self-government to the Territory should be sufficient to have him honoured at a state funeral.

“Add his contribution to the economic development of the Territory and the case in favour of a state funeral is overwhelming.

“I note the Chief Minister has already indicated the family of Sam Calder will be offered a reception at Parliament House and there will be a condolence motion at the next Parliamentary sitting.

“Should the Federal Government fail to do the right thing, it’s only a short step from what the Chief Minister has already proposed to properly honouring Sam Calder’s contribution to the Territory.”

To arrange further comment : Greg Charter 0400 14059