STATE FUNERAL FOR MR TUNGUTALUM

The Henderson Government should hold a State funeral to honour the achievements and memory of Indigenous MLA Mr Tungutalum.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy, Adam Giles, said Mr Tungutalum made a unique contribution to Northern Territory life and politics and in death his achievements should be honoured accordingly.

“Mr Tungutalum was one of Australia’s first ever Aboriginal parliamentarians,” Mr Giles said.

“He was the first Aborigine elected to the Territory Parliament, winning the then seat of Tiwi for the CLP in the first fully-elected Legislative Assembly in October 1974.

“Mr Tungutalum was a leader of men and was respected for the leadership role he played both within the community and through his parliamentary work.

“Anyone who puts his hand up to represent his people in the political arena should be commended. It’s people like Mr Tungutalum that set the platform for indigenous leadership today and into the future.

“Mr Tungutalum was one of Australia’s first Indigenous politicians and a trail blazer. It always takes courage to break new ground.

“Additionally, he was an important ceremonial man on the Tiwi Islands and an influential leader of his people.

“Mr Tungutalum was an inaugural member of the Tiwi Land Council, served on the Tiwi Health Board and the Tiwi Education Board and a champion player with St Marys.
“My thoughts are with his wife Natalie, his sons Richard and Leslie and his grandson Ross.”

To arrange further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118