Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, has paid tribute to long-time Territorian and former Country Liberal Party staffer, Peter Murphy, who passed away this morning after a battle with cancer.

Mr Mills said Mr Murphy made a major contribution to the Northern Territory through his work with the media and after Self Government as an adviser to five CLP Chief Ministers and, more recently, with the private sector.

“Peter loved the Northern Territory and was one of those rare people able to make a significant contribution behind the scenes while others received the exposure,” Mr Mills said.

“In his early years as a reporter with the NT News he covered the Wave Hill walk off and while forging close links with Vincent Lingiari and the striking workers, was able to present an extremely balanced account of this significant social and industrial action.

“As a media adviser he had no time for the spin and trickery that can be a feature of modern day politics, preferring to say it as it was and to confront issues head on.

“He had a particular interest in Indigenous issues and right up until his death had very close connections with the Tiwi Islands.

“Another passion was a commitment to forging links with the Territory’s Asian neighbours and in the early years of Self Government he was at the forefront of establishing close ties in the region, particularly with Indonesia.

“His contribution to the Territory was recognised in 2007 when he was awarded an Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honors.

“But first and foremost Peter was a family man, and always spoke with love and pride about his wife Lani and their four children.

“My thoughts go out to Peter’s family and his many friends at this sad time.

“Although I know Murph would hate the attention, I will be approaching the Chief Minister about allocating time for a condolence motion when the Northern Territory Parliament reconvenes in February.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594