14 May 2015

2ND MEMORIAL FOR ARAFURA GAMES

Shadow Minister for Asian Relations and Trade, Ken Vowles, today said Territorians have again been denied another Arafura Games and the $10 million boost to the economy that it brings.

“The Arafura Games began in 1991 and was held every two years after that, except for 2003 due to concerns over the SARS virus,” Mr Vowles said.

“The Games not only served to boost the local economy and tourism trade, but also forged ties with our Asia and Pacific neighbours.

“The streets of Darwin should be bustling with national and international visitors for what would have been the end of another fantastic Arafura Games.

“By axing the Arafura Games, Adam Giles has denied Territory business a cash injection of $10 million that shops, hotels and restaurants are in need of.

“The last Arafura Games were held in 2011 and involved 40 nations and over 2,500 athletes.

“When the CLP took power, then Chief Minister, Terry Mills told Territorians the Games would be deferred.

“Adam Giles would later go on to say that the Games would be back, bigger and better but would then go on to break his promise when he said in 2014 that the Arafura Games had ‘had its day’.

“The previous Labor Government strongly supported the Arafura Games and recognised the widespread benefits the Games have on Territory athletes, volunteers, our relationship with Asia and the huge boost to the local economy over the week-long event.

“The Arafura Games was one of those events that put the Top End on the map. We’ve lost $10 million from our economy and an iconic Territorians event under this Government.

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794