MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
Lynne Walker
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS POLICY

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A Territory Leader and Trailblazer

The man who was the Territory’s first ever Indigenous School Principal and who, through music, took his people’s message global, lived an inspirational life, Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said today.

“The death of Dr Yunupingu overnight leaves an enduring legacy and inspiration for Territorians to follow,” Ms Lawrie said.

“A great Australian, he was first and foremost a passionate educator who recognised that it was only through education and ‘two ways learning’, that Yolngu children could walk in both worlds and was a strong advocate for embracing technology to achieve improved life outcomes for Indigenous people.”

A dedicated advocate for reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous people, his life’s work included establishing the Yothu Yindi Foundation and the iconic Garma Festival, the biggest in the country, dedicated to celebrating and teaching others about Indigenous culture.

“As thousands celebrate the Garma festival in August we will remember a life spent in the service of others. As Australian of the Year, Dr Yunupingu continued to challenge all of us through his music to achieve reconciliation and recognition on behalf of the Yolngu people in East Arnhem Land,” Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy and Local Member Lynne Walker said in Nhulunbuy today.

“Dr Yunupingu took his culture and his message to the world in a powerful and respectful way.”

“It is of some comfort that he was able to return to his home of Yirrkala late last year and our thoughts and sincere condolences are with his wife Gurruwun, their daughters and grandchildren, the Gumatj clan and his Yolngu people,” Ms Lawrie said.

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