



# Wyatt pitch for Bridge permanent memorial

■ **Beatrice Thomas**

Labor's Ben Wyatt has called on the State Government to commission a statue of late former Aboriginal MP Ernie Bridge similar to those erected around WA in tribute to other pioneers.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, Mr Wyatt joined MPs from all sides of politics reflecting on Mr Bridge's achievements, including as WA's first Aboriginal MP and Australia's first Aboriginal Cabinet minister.

Mr Bridge, the Kimberley MLA from 1980 to 2001, died in March after a battle with mesothelioma, aged 76. "There is a strong case for more permanently memorialising Ernie's life and legacy," Mr Wyatt said.



**Statue call: Ernie Bridge**

"It would be good for the Government to commission the production and then erect either here in Perth or the Kimberley a statue of Ernie Bridge that captures some of the larger-than-life and colourful and charismatic features of this man and his life."