



SKYTRANS SELLS TO LOCAL FAMILY COMPANY

21st November 2006

One of the North's leading regional airlines, Skytrans, today announced the sale of its airline to prominent local aviation family, The Wilds'.

The sale of the airline to the Wild Family has come after the need for the regional carrier to expand its operations and offer a more comprehensive service into the marketplace after recent increased demand. The Wild Family has a strong track record in the local aviation industry, also owning Queensland Regional Airlines, Inland Pacific Air, Airlines PNG and Corporate Air Services. This family group has the capability to move Skytrans to the next level, by increasing aircraft capacity and customer service.

"This airline has been our life for the past 16 years and we have put our hearts and souls into building it up to this point and we thank the local community for standing by us every step of the way, but we really felt the need to hand the reigns over to boost the airline to compete in the marketplace effectively. We are very proud to announce the sale of Skytrans to a local family like the Wilds' as they have a strong aviation background and hold very similar values to us," said Managing Director of Skytrans, David Barnard.

As a group the Wild Family boast 20 Dash 8 and twin otter aircraft, their mountain of experience and capacity to expand the airline is expected to propel its growth.

"Skytrans is a very strong airline in the marketplace with huge growth potential and my family and I want nothing more than to keep the culture of this airline flourishing as it has worked seamlessly for many years. We plan to simply build on what David and Sue have already created and they have done a fabulous job," said Wild Family Group, Chief Executive Officer, Simon Wild.

"I will continue to work with the Wild Family through the transition and I will then take on an advisory role to Skytrans to help it through this growth phase," said Mr Barnard.

"David's knowledge is invaluable and keeping him involved will be an asset to us.. We intend to work very closely with him as we move this airline into its next phase. David and his wife have had a dream of where they want this airline to go for many years and we plan to make their dream a reality," said Mr Wild.

The expansion of the airline is already full steam ahead, with the Cairns to Cooktown flight today being upgraded from a 9 seat Cessna 404, to a 36 seat Dash 8 aircraft, with inflight entertainment.

“The inaugural flight is very exciting for us as it symbolises the first step in the airlines growth. Operating larger capacity aircraft is our niche so this is the first of many upgrades the community will see. Today’s flight also shows we are committed to providing a high calibre service to the people of the North and to show our appreciation for their ongoing support since this company was established,” said Mr Wild.

The Dash 8 aircraft will now be a regular sight to see in the skies of FNQ, which will hail the beginning of increased passenger numbers on one of the biggest growth routes in the region.

On long sector flights The Wild Family say they will be introducing inflight movies and increase customer service with more flight attendants for the Skytrans passengers.

“These are just some of the initial plans we have for Skytrans and it is just the tip of the iceberg for the people of North Queensland,” said Mr Wild.

GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY!

- WHEN:** 8:30am Tuesday 21st November 2006
- WHERE:** Skytrans Terminal at the General Aviation Terminal
(Bush Pilots Avenue)
- WHAT:** The inaugural Dash 8 Cairns to Cooktown flight will land in Cairns with dignitaries from the local Cooktown Shire Council (including their Mayor and CEO) at 8:50am. The dignitaries will arrive for a special morning tea to celebrate the expansion of the route and also to meet the new airline owners.

Please note:

Media are invited to take the flight with the dignitaries back to Cooktown (the Dash 8 will be flying back to Cooktown at 10:10am and you will be back in Cairns by 12pm).

For media interviews contact:

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