Vincent Aviation Australia Flies To The Rescue

Vincent Aviation Australia’s first run of regular passenger transport between Darwin and the Tiwi Islands is set to take off tomorrow.

Transport Minister Delia Lawrie today congratulated Vincent Aviation Australia for filling the void left by Tiwi Travel and Freight earlier this month.

“Hundreds of Tiwi residents depend on regular passenger travel to and from Darwin to access many essential services such as medical care,” Ms Lawrie said.

“I know the departure by Tiwi Travel and Freight was a huge blow for the Tiwi Islanders and the decision by Vincent Aviation Australia will be greatly welcomed.

“I congratulate Vincent Aviation Australia on its decision to fly once a day from Mondays to Fridays between Darwin and Nguiu on Bathurst Island.”

Vincent Aviation Australia general manager Kevin Pengelly said his decision to start regular passenger travel between Darwin and the Tiwi Islands was not made lightly.

"There are no certainties in the current economic climate but we are honour bound to try," Mr Pengelly said.

"If the response to our services is anything like what we received from the Groote Eylandt communities we believe there is potential to develop the services onto an economically viable footing.

"Vincent Aviation Australia has provided charter services to the Tiwi Islands for many years with our Beechcraft aircraft proving quite popular with Tiwi Island residents.

"We have the existing infrastructure and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) approvals so we are immediately able to assist not only with passenger services but with freight.

“Vincent Aviation Australia realises the Tiwi Islands require a twice daily service but will start with a midday flight while we work with the communities and other aviation providers to sort out longer term solutions and this will involve how we expand flights to Melville Island.”

Vincent Aviation Australia has operated in the Northern Territory for eight years and currently provides regular passenger travel to Groote Eylandt and extensive Fly in Fly out services for mining companies.

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