MEDIA RELEASE

TINDAL NIGHT FLIGHTS RESUME

August 08th, 2011

Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, has welcomed the decision to reintroduce night-time fixed-wing aero-medical flights out of RAAF Base Tindal.

Mr Westra van Holthe said the decision is a significant win for the Katherine community and the Country Liberals, who have pushed for some time for the return of night-time aero-med flights to Tindal.

“Night time flights in and out of Tindal were suspended in 2008 because of the risk of wallaby strike at the base,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The Department of Defence has worked hard to reduce the wallaby population within the base and the ambient wallaby population is now actually higher outside than inside the Tindal fence.

“Now that night flights have resumed, the Government must stop finding excuses and reinstate a permanent fixed wing aeromed aircraft in Katherine to service the region and cater for high priority evacuations.

“As well as being a tourism hub, Katherine is a major centre for the pastoral industry and the provision of a full-time fixed wing service to the region should be a Government priority.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430