Media Release

Peter Chandler
Minister for Transport

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Airnorth ‘centre run’ takes flight

19 October 2015

The maiden Airnorth ‘centre run’ route has touched down, connecting regional centres across the Northern Territory.

Minister for Transport Peter Chandler said it was an exciting day, with the new service looping between Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

“After a positive negotiation process, I am thrilled to get this service off the ground. From today, the ‘centre run’ route will operate three times per week across the Territory,” Minister Chandler said.

“The Country Liberals Government is serious about connecting Territorians and developing Northern Australia—this new service is just another sign of that commitment.

“This is a significant achievement and a great partnership between the Northern Territory Government and local company Airnorth.

“Links are now open for local businesses and residents to benefit from improved air connections and importantly Territorians now also have much better access to health and other essential services,” Minister Chandler said.

The ‘centre run’ route will be trialled over a two year period, with the aim of a permanent service once viability has been tested.

Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said the new service is fantastic news for Katherine and something he has been championing for some time.

“It is so very important that the Katherine business community and residents can connect outside of the region; this new service will make that so much easier,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“I also expect the ‘centre run’ route will open up tourism opportunities, making it easier for visitors to get in and out of the region to visit our amazing natural attractions.

“The previous air service for Katherine and Tennant Creek was cancelled in 2004 when it became commercially unviable.
“With that in mind, I encourage Territorians and visitors to use this service and ensure it has wings for years to come,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

Airnorth will operate the service on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It will be primarily scheduled in the Embraer E120 aircraft offering a full airline service.

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