



# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
Tuesday 12 December 2008

## **West Wing Aviation launches \$9M Beechcraft 1900D**

North Queensland aviation company West Wing Aviation has today officially launched its two new 19-seater aircraft worth a combined \$9 million.

This major investment highlights the strength of the North's economy despite the current global economic downturn.

The two Beechcraft 1900D aircraft will predominantly service the region's mining industry to transport fly-in/fly-out employees.

Due to their lower operating costs and lower fuel consumption, the aircraft offer an economical charter option for companies looking to achieve cost savings in employee travel.

Today's launch marks a significant milestone in the growth of the locally based general charter aviation company. Since its inception in 2000 West Wing Aviation has expanded to a fleet of 26 aircraft with flights out of Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns.

West Wing Aviation Managing Director Peter Collings said the launch of the Beechcraft 1900D – the largest in their fleet – would be welcome news for companies who require mid-range aircraft.

"We have introduced these new aircraft to our fleet as we believe there is strong market demand for mid-size aircraft in North Queensland," Mr Collings said.

"We can now carry up to 19 passengers, whereas before with our existing aircraft we could carry a maximum of 11 passengers.

"The arrival of the two Beechcraft is particularly timely as companies look for ways to tighten their belts in the midst of the current economic downturn.

"The Beechcraft is a quality aircraft that is designed to achieve operational efficiencies, making it an extremely economical choice for companies.

“Another benefit of this aircraft is it’s comfortable for passengers, with a spacious stand-up cabin and airconditioning.”

The 2x Beechcraft 1900D aircraft were on display at Townsville Airport today where a small celebration for clients and stakeholders was held.

Name of aircraft

In conjunction with customer OZ Minerals Century Mine, West Wing Aviation held a competition for their staff to name the aircraft with the winner offered a \$500 cash prize.

Employee Hemi Waiwiri was chosen as the winner after suggesting the name *Camira*, which is the Aboriginal term for ‘of the wind’.

**Media contact for further information:**

Sheree Lineham  
Positive PR  
P 0407 200899