



# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
Monday 19 April 2010

## **West Wing Aviation expands to Palm Island**

North Queensland's specialist commuter airline West Wing Aviation has expanded its operations to Palm Island and will soon begin operating daily flights for the island's residents and commuters.

At the official launch of its new service today (Monday 19 April), West Wing announced it has already expanded the current schedule to 22 flights per week day and will next month introduce weekend flights.

West Wing Aviation is a North Queensland-owned airline, which operates the RPT services in the Torres Strait Islands and general charter operations throughout Australia.

The Townsville-Palm Island route was formerly serviced by Skytrans, which is concentrating its business on larger commuter services. West Wing Aviation reached an agreement in March with Skytrans. Both airlines have worked in close co-operation to ensure a seamless transition for passengers.

West Wing operates 22 services to and from Palm Island on Mondays to Fridays and will have four flights on Saturdays and Sundays.

West Wing Aviation Director Peter Collings said: "We are thrilled to be expanding our services to Palm Island – the residents and commuters deserve a first-rate and reliable service and we will deliver that.

"From this month we will be introducing weekend flights which will give residents greater flexibility to access the mainland.

"Our expansion into Palm Island highlights our focus on smaller charter operations and we plan to continue to strategically grow our services to ensure people in regional and remote areas have access to safe and reliable air travel."

Palm Island Mayor Cr Alf Lacey said: "We welcome West Wing Aviation's commitment to Palm Island and are very pleased they will be introducing weekend flights.

“It is so important to us to have frequent and reliable transport access to Townsville and it has been a disadvantage to us in the past not to have flights on Saturdays and Sundays – this will greatly benefit our residents.

“We look forward to working in close partnership with West Wing as they will become a significant business in our community.

“Already they have made their presence felt in the community, agreeing to sponsor a local rugby league team on the island.”

West Wing Aviation has a fleet of over 30 aircraft, with bases in Mount Isa, Cairns, Horn Island and Townsville.

West Wing Aviation offers ‘Airline standard’ Check & Training, Maintenance and Safety Management Systems.

To book your seat or find out more about West Wing Aviation visit, [www.westwing.com.au](http://www.westwing.com.au) or call 4759 3777.

**Media contact for further information:**

Sheree Lineham-Brazil

Positive PR

P 0407 200899