

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SKYTRANS has strengthened its commitment and investment in Far North Queensland with the company pleased to make two exciting announcements .

From July 26, Skytrans will introduce a new schedule into and out of Cairns, including an increase in Mount Isa to Cairns services which will now run on a daily return basis during the working week.

Skytrans has also renewed its commitment to the Far North's only national sporting team – the Taipans - to be naming rights sponsor for the National Basketball League club for the 2010-11 season.

In addition, the company is excited to announce it has added another Dash 8 aircraft to its fleet this year, taking the total number of aircraft to 11 and making Skytrans the largest operator of Dash 8 100s in Australia. The aircraft features 36 seats, in-flight movies and first class catering. Skytrans has bases in Cairns, Perth, Darwin and Brisbane and flies to 23 destinations in Queensland alone.

The additional Mount Isa flights will depart from Cairns in the morning and return to Cairns in the evening allowing a days business to be managed in the Mount Isa region. It also opens up a direct fly in/out commute style employment opportunities for Cairns residents.

"Skytrans continually seeks to gather input from passengers and key stakeholders with a view to fine-tuning our schedule in order to accommodate the needs of the community we serve as best we can," said Skytrans Managing Director Simon Wild.

Skytrans passengers in Mount Isa will also be noticing some positive changes, with later departure times enabling connections through the Gulf ports to Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane to be more comfortably met.

"Passenger levels have increased considerably since Skytrans assumed the remaining term of the Department of Transport and Main Roads subsets and in response to market demands, additional flights have been introduced," Skytrans Commercial RPT Manager Steve Jones, said. "By partnering with *qconnect* and working closely with the Government, we've been able to provide a reliable service which suits the needs of our customers" said Mr Jones.

Other changes to the schedule designed to benefit travellers to the Cape regions include additional services to Aurukun at the start and end of the working week, and an upgrade to Coen flights which will now operate utilising the Dash 8 aircraft.

Mr Wild said Skytrans had enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the Taipans over the past 3 years and was excited about the season ahead.

“The Taipans are terrific for Cairns and Far North Queensland. and from our perspective take our brand to the entire country, and New Zealand, but more than that they provide the region with family-friendly entertainment and something to really get behind and make ours,” he said.

Taipans General Manager Mark Beecroft said the club was rapt to have Skytrans as a naming rights sponsor for the 2010-11 season.

“Skytrans has shown a lot of faith in the Taipans over many years, in particular the last two seasons as the Club moved to a Community not-for-profit organisation. We are very positive that with all the hard work we are doing both on and off the court, we will be repaying that faith in spades this season,” Beecroft said.

For further information and bookings, visit www.skytrans.com.au or call 1300SKYTRANS

For all your Taipans and NBL news, visit www.taipans.com

All season-ticket pledges can now be can now select their seating options for the up-coming NBL season by contacting Ashley or Karina at the Taipans office on (07) 4041 3000.

For media interviews contact: Steve Jones 0447 406400 (Skytrans); Mark Beecroft 0412 486 488 (Taipans).