



Media statement

19 March 2021

Skytrans offers support to Torres and Cape vaccination rollout

The COVID-19 vaccination rollout across the vast and remote reaches of the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula just got a lot easier thanks to the generosity of regional airline Skytrans.

Cairns-based Skytrans has committed to supporting the vaccination rollout by transporting vaccines and vaccination supplies for free across the region to all locations serviced by the airline on Cape York, the Northern Peninsula Area and the Torres Strait.

The airline, which is part-owned by former North Queensland Cowboys star and rugby great Johnathan Thurston, also will provide discounted airfares for all health service staff travelling between communities to deliver the vaccination program.

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Beverley Hamerton said she was utterly humbled by the offer.

“This is an incredibly generous offer by an iconic Far Northern business,” Ms Hamerton said.

“Skytrans has a reputation for standing by the Far Northern communities it services through good times and bad.

“This is yet another example of public spiritedness by a truly community-minded enterprise.

“On behalf of all the communities we care for across the Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area and Cape York, I thank them and commend them for their support.”

Skytrans Chief Executive Officer Alan Milne said the airline was very much a part of the Torres Strait and Cape York communities.

“We fly there every day and want to give back to the communities; it’s as simple as helping our friends, family and our neighbours,” he said.

“We have members from our team who have family in vulnerable communities across the region.

“Holding back is just not in our DNA and we had to offer assistance in delivering this historic vaccination program.

“Economically, it also makes sense to protect our community. We want to assist Health in helping move us forward from the COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible.

“None of us in Far North Queensland want to go back to lockdowns.



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“And we don’t want to see communities cut off from essential services due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

“We recently saw the announcement of a federal support package to attract visitors to the region; so we need to ensure we do not have an outbreak which would prolong the hardship for businesses and have large impacts on family budgets throughout our region.”

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