



INDEPENDENT FOR KAWANA

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 November 2017

It's about Fokker time the Sunshine Coast Airport had a northern air link

Independent candidate for Kawana, Jeremy Davey, has today pledged that he will work 'with all and sundry' to push for a northern air link from the Sunshine Coast Airport; something he claims would be a successful commercial venture for the right airline and would attract more international visitors to the coast.

"The Sunshine Coast Council has ensured that the airport extension will become a reality, however we need not wait for runway or terminal extensions to be completed before attracting carriers to the coast," Mr Davey said.

Mr Davey suggested that the optimum destination for a northern air link would be the international gateway of Cairns, which through Qantas low cost subsidiary Jetstar already links Cairns direct with the Gold Coast. He also highlighted the fact that Cairns airport had airlines serving over 15 international destinations, including key markets such as China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea.

"Ultimately with the airport upgrade we want to attract direct international flights to the Sunshine Coast without intermediate stops, however we need to be realistic and be conservative with an initial approach.

"The new Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport offers direct jet flights to both Cairns and Townsville through Airnorth in a codeshare arrangement with Qantas, so I am confident that a similar service from the Sunshine Coast would be viable and well accepted by Sunny Coasters," Mr Davey said.

The Kawana candidate acknowledged that a link to Cairns may initially not justify an aircraft the size of those operated by Jetstar, however pointed to the fact that there has been an emergence of 'hub-busting' airlines including Airnorth and Jetgo. He also sighted Alliance Airlines' move to more Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) flights due to a downturn in the mining air charter industry.

"Alliance Airlines' Fokker aircraft already operate charter flights to the Sunshine Coast and would be a perfect fit for such a route; they could codeshare these flights with their affiliate Virgin Australia and other carriers," Mr Davey said.

ENDS

For further information please call or text Jeremy Davey 0400 398 367