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Immediate Use

AROUND THE CLOCK SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE

Far North Queensland is now covered for the first time by dedicated fixed-wing search and rescue unit based in Cairns, Australian Search and Rescue announced today.

Cape York Air has commenced operations as an around-the-clock search and rescue unit contracted to AusSAR.

The dedicated unit will be able to respond to emergencies in the higher risk Queensland region faster and more effectively than ever before.

“Under the contract, the dedicated units will be in the air and en route to an emergency in 30 minutes or less during daylight hours,” an AusSAR spokesman said.

The dedicated services have been introduced as part of a wider refocusing of Australian’s search and rescue resources. Under the previous system, there were no search and rescue units providing an AusSAR-only service.

“Cape York Air will have a plane loaded with life rafts and other life saving equipment available to AusSAR at all times,” the spokesman said.

Two other dedicated fixed wing search and rescue units in Melbourne (VIC) and Wollongong (NSW) commenced operations in December, 2001.

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