



Royal Flying Doctor Service

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**RIO TINTO LIFEFLIGHT
PC-24 JETS
IMPACT REPORT:**
Celebrating the jets' first
year in the skies

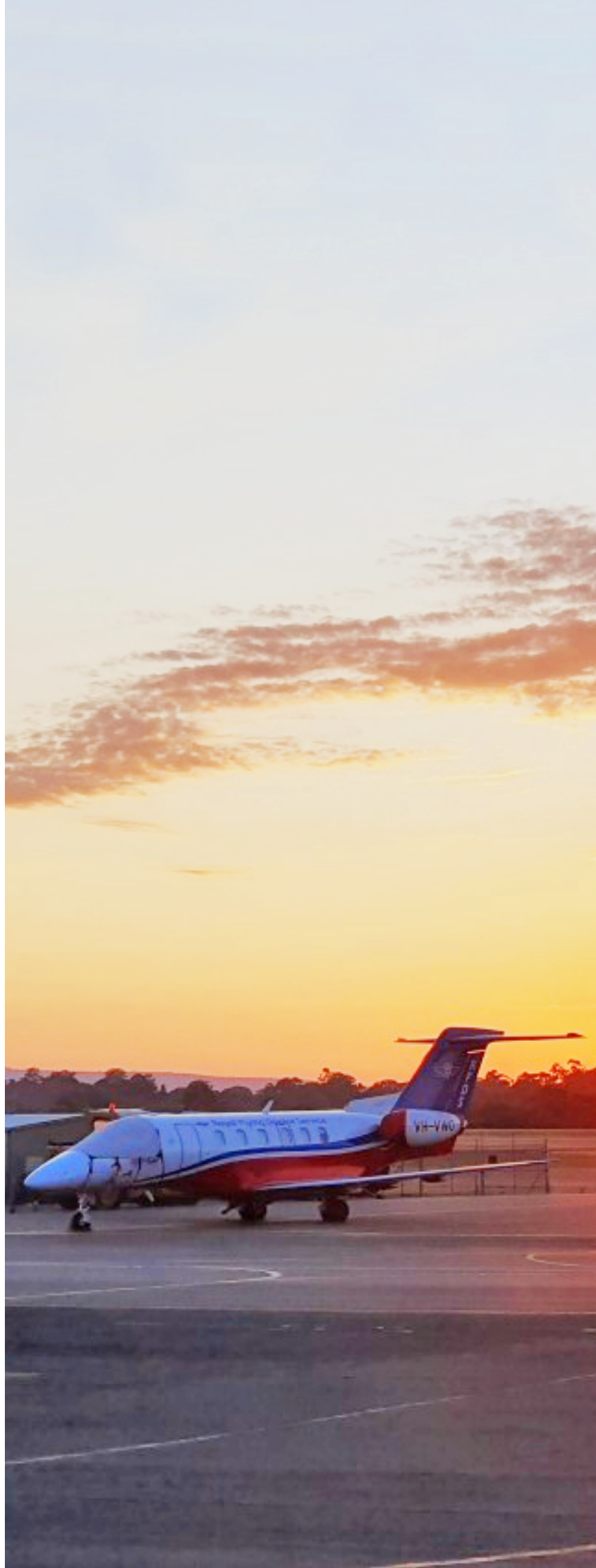
MARCH 2020

In December 2018 and February 2019 the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) welcomed two Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets.

The acquisition and aeromedical fit out was a \$26 million investment, partly funded by a \$10 million contribution from Rio Tinto, \$4.5 million from the Commonwealth Government and \$6.5 million from a Lotterywest grant.

The successful integration of two Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets into our fleet over the past year has had a significant impact on those who live, work and travel across Western Australia.

This Impact Report details how the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets have revolutionised the way our 24-hour aeromedical emergency service is coordinated across the State.



Boosting overall fleet capacity to support healthcare in Western Australia

The Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets have allowed the Royal Flying Doctor Service to enhance and expand its fleet for the great benefit of remote and regional Western Australians.

The fleet has grown from 16 PC-12 turbo props to include the two Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets and now is a fleet of 18 aircraft.

The Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets have been fully integrated into our fleet and have revolutionised the way we coordinate our response across the vast 2.5 million square kilometre regions of Western Australia.



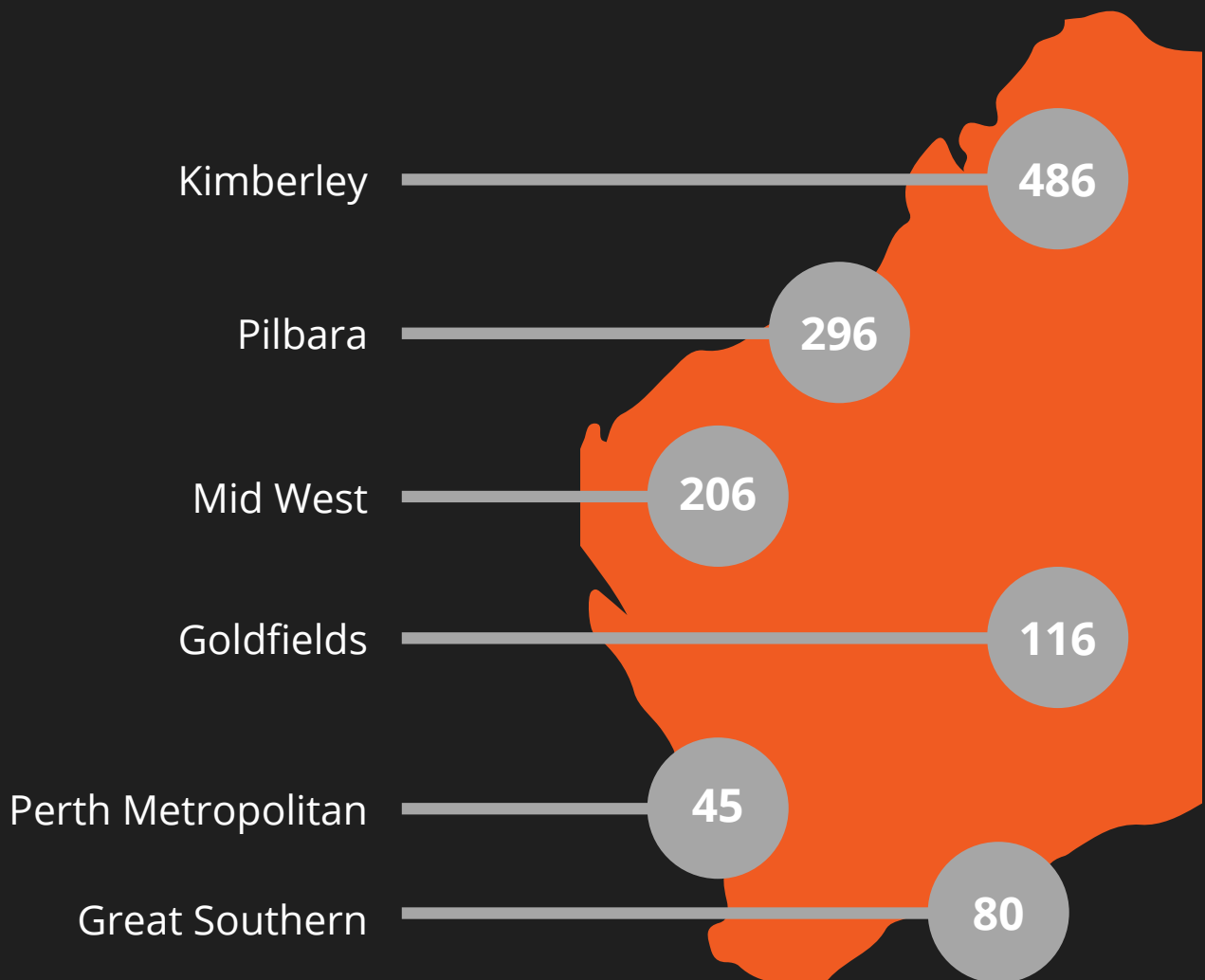
Reducing the time in long-haul patient critical scenarios

The first year of the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets' operation has seen:

- **a decrease in requirement for 'meet transfers', refuelling stops or crew changes for long haul patients.**
 - 82% of long-haul patients had no more than one landing stop in 2019 compared with 76% in 2018
 - 38% of long-haul patients had no stops en-route compared with 28% in 2018
- **a decrease in the requirement for clinical handover of patients to other RFDS crews for long haul patients.**
 - 98% of long haul patients had zero or one meet in 2019 compared with 92% in 2018
 - 61% of long-haul patients in 2019 were transferred without requiring a meet or handover, compared with 43% in 2018
 - The number of patients requiring two or more meets has decreased by 63%, showing that the impact of the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets' capacity is significant in ensuring patients reach definitive care more seamlessly and faster.
- **decreased transfer time for patients and reduced 'out of hospital care' improving patient experience.**
 - Median transfer times – time between departure from pickup airport to arrival at destination airport – have fallen for long-haul patients in 2019 compared to 2018.
 - The decrease varies with actual distance transported:
 - reduced from 4.1 hours to 3.5 hours for patients travelling 1,200 – 1,500km (e.g. Warburton to Perth); and
 - reduced from 7.2 hours to 6.2 hours for patients travelling 2,100– 2,400km (e.g. Kununurra to Perth).

Advancing health outcomes for patients throughout Western Australia

A total of 1,229 patients have been retrieved with the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets



Every region in Western Australia will continue to benefit from this capability. The speed and capacity of the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets will allow for greater positive patient outcomes.

Delivering an inflight emergency ward for Western Australia

The Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets are literally 'intensive care units in the sky' with the most experienced medical clinicians, professionally trained pilots and highly maintained aircraft.

Three stretchered patients, plus one seated patient and two medical teams can work in a Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jet.



Underpinning WA's regional health equity

The Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets underpin the health equity of regional Western Australia. This capital investment ensures that everyone who lives, works or travels across the vast 2.5 million square kilometres of our state has access to the world's most advanced and innovative aero medical capability.

Catalysing the transformation of an icon into an innovator

These aircraft have been the catalyst for the transformation of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Western Australia from a 90 year old icon to an innovative world leading aero medical service. As a result the RFDS was named the WA Tech Company of the Year in 2019 and entered into the WA Information Technology and Telecommunications Alliance (WAITTA) Hall of Fame.

Investing in Western Australia's professional capabilities

The availability of the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets in Western Australia has inspired significant capacity building in the training and development of Western Australia's aviation industry and aero medical field.

To date 10 pilots have been trained to commandeer the Rio Tinto Life Flight PC-24 jets and six engineers have been internationally certified to service and maintain the aircraft. The introduction of the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets to the RFDS fleet has excited the aviation community in new and greater opportunities for training on jet aircraft in Western Australia.

A further positive impact has seen the training and development of medical clinicians for the Rio Tinto Life Flight PC-24 jets. These doctors and flight nurses perform what we call 'extreme medicine', treating patients with complex needs, at altitude and in a confined space.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations was the very first to use the jet for aero medical retrieval work anywhere in the world. The charity was the very first to bring it into the southern hemisphere and the first to use it in Australia. The RFDS to achieve all the regulatory processes to allow this jet to fly in Australian airspace - if you see another such jet in Australian skies today, it's because of the regulatory work undertaken by RFDS WA.

This capability has been pioneered by the RFDS in Western Australia and is now being replicated internationally.







Thank you to our Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 Jet Funders

RioTinto



Australian Government
Department of Health

our Aeromedical Fund Partners

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SANDFIRE RESOURCES



and the community of Western Australia



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