



**CRUISING:** Cannonvale company Fusion Catamarans Pty Ltd, is about to start exporting their kit form catamarans overseas.

Picture Contributed.

**BUSINESS COVER:** Member for Whitsunday Jan Jarratt and Minister for State Development Tony McGrady congratulate Jim Gard on his business growth.

Picture: LINDA BRADY, WHITSUNDAY TIMES.

■ COVER STORY

# Firm launches export kit 'cats'

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A WHITSUNDAY company which builds catamaran kits is about to start exporting across the world.

Fusion Catamarans Pty Ltd established itself in the old Farr Factory at Blue Bay Estate, Cannonvale, a year ago and is already making rapid gains in the marine market.

The kits are designed to

fit in a 40-foot container and a fully-assembled vessel is 12 by 7.2m, or a typical charter boat size catamaran.

Chief executive Jim Gard said the business expected growth in the overseas rather than domestic markets.

He said the boat design was unique.

"There is a lack of good modern products," Mr Gard said.

"Many boats are based on 14 to 15 year-old designs so

this is the first modern designed boat in 12 years," he said.

"All the others are just modifications of the original design."

Mr Gard said an innovative process called infusion moulding meant their boats can weigh about half that of conventional vessels.

This process means the boat uses just one third of the resin which would go into any standard produc-

tion boat.

The business began with five people but this has grown to 16 and Mr Gard said they expected to have 40 people on the books soon.

Mr Gard said there were no plans to relocate the business, despite higher manufacturing costs in the Whitsundays.

"It is more expensive to manufacture them here but easier from a marketing point of view," he said.