



Australian Government

QANTAS Hangar, Longreach Queensland



National Heritage List

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NLA

A key site in Australia's early aviation history, the unassuming galvanised iron hangar at Longreach is where QANTAS began operating in 1922. It is closely associated with Hudson Fysh, Paul J McGinness, Fergus McMaster and Arthur Baird, central figures in the establishment of the airline. The hangar also has strong links to the start of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

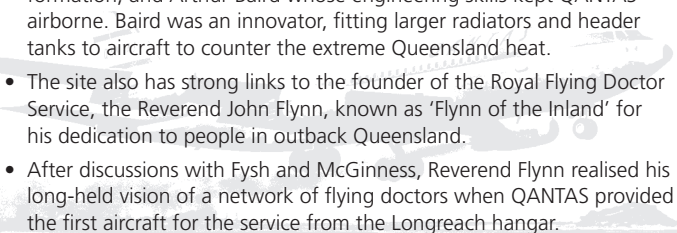
The QANTAS hangar at Longreach received the highest possible heritage honour when it was included in the National Heritage List on 2 May 2009.

A site of important history

- In 1919 two World War 1 airmen, Hudson Fysh and Paul J McGinness, surveyed an air route from Longreach to Darwin for the first England–Australia Air Race. As they travelled the black soil plains between remote communities unconnected by rail, they realised the potential for an air service for mail, freight and passengers.

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- With funds from local graziers including Fergus McMaster, they established the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd (QANTAS) in 1920. QANTAS began operating in 1922 from the hangar at Longreach with two small planes. From these humble beginnings, the 'flying kangaroo' grew to a successful international airline.
 - The hangar is one of the earliest sites of civil aviation activity in Australia. No other place holds such strong associations with the first seminal decade of QANTAS.
 - The hangar is also important for its association with the start of the Aerial Medical Service (flying doctors) in 1928. QANTAS supplied the first planes and provided logistical support from the Longreach hangar.

Links to significant people

- The QANTAS hangar at Longreach is closely associated with the work of Fysh, McGinness and McMaster who were central to the company's formation, and Arthur Baird whose engineering skills kept QANTAS airborne. Baird was an innovator, fitting larger radiators and header tanks to aircraft to counter the extreme Queensland heat.
 - The site also has strong links to the founder of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Reverend John Flynn, known as 'Flynn of the Inland' for his dedication to people in outback Queensland.
 - After discussions with Fysh and McGinness, Reverend Flynn realised his long-held vision of a network of flying doctors when QANTAS provided the first aircraft for the service from the Longreach hangar.
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National Heritage List

The National Heritage List recognises and protects our most valued natural, Indigenous and historic heritage sites. It reflects the story of our development, from our original inhabitants to the present day, Australia's spirit and ingenuity, and our unique, living landscapes.

Each place in the List has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having outstanding heritage value to the nation, and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that approval must be obtained before taking any action that may have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the place. In this way, we can retain our heritage for future generations.

To ensure ongoing protection, each listed place should have a management plan outlining how the heritage values of the site will be conserved and interpreted.

The National Heritage List enables all Australians to value, protect, and celebrate our unique heritage.

For further information visit www.heritage.gov.au

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