



**CAIRNS
CONVENTION
CENTRE**
PASSION IS IN OUR NATURE

AVIATION FACT SHEET

Cairns boasts international, domestic and general aviation facilities which enables ease of access for people and freight to all corners of the globe. With more than three times as many passenger movements per resident than larger cities, the facilities have allowed for the region to grow as a commercial and holiday destination.

Cairns Airport became operational in 1928 and was built on a sand ridge runway. In 1943, the runway was lengthened and hardened for the use of military aircraft. It has since been upgraded twice, once in 1949 and the second, in 1960, increasing the length to 2,020 metres.



The redevelopment of Cairns Airport that began in 1982 included a further lengthening of the runway and expansion of buildings and other facilities. The most recent expansion in August 2019 was carried out with the goal of being able to accommodate 6 million passengers by 2027.

Aviation Australia has several bases, one of which is in Cairns. The company is a world class registered training organisation and the only Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approved training organisation in Australia.

Being a remote location in a country the size of Australia, means that in times of emergency, particularly for medical situations, time is of the essence. The iconic Royal Flying Doctors Service Aviation Industry based in Cairns provides regular transfers of patients for life-saving surgery, as well as a broader range of services to remote and rural communities.

CHRIS PIGOTT
BUSINESS MANAGER,
AVIATION AUSTRALIA

“Aviation Australia holds the highest number of aviation approvals in Australia. This means that we can train anyone from all over the world and are the only company that has the Aviation Safety Approval in the country to do so.”



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Training the Industry

Global Aviation Training

Aviation Australia's Cairns Aviation Skills Centre (CASC) opened in 2004 and caters for both domestic and international engineering students, providing certificate and diploma-level aircraft maintenance engineering courses. Cairns Aviation Skills Centre and CQUniversity Aviation Campus are both located at Cairns Airport, delivering vocational and Bachelor Qualifications. Aviation Australia is one of the country's foremost specialist aviation and aerospace training providers and has partnered with CQUniversity to deliver Australia's first Aircraft Maintenance Engineering degree. The course, which has been developed to address emerging aviation industry requirements, provides multiple outcomes for students seeking to gain an aircraft maintenance engineer's licence in addition to a higher education qualification.

Aviation in the Future

The future of aviation in Cairns is bright with projects such as the development of a business case for a world class advanced, composite fibre manufacturing and repair facility sponsored by the State Government, earmarked for the region. The Arnhem Space Centre currently in development by Equatorial Launch Australia in the Northern Territory, is home to one of the first commercial space launch site in Australia. Aviation Australia is working closely to assist with the project and support the sustainability of the facility. Equatorial Launch Australia's first customer is expected to be NASA with the United States' Space Agency launching its suborbital rocket campaign from the Arnhem Space Centre.

International and National Bases

Several international and national companies have major service centres in Cairns including Hawker Pacific, an official Bombardier service centre with the largest avionics workshop in the southern hemisphere. UK owned Cobham Aviation Services is also based in Cairns.

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Air Travel to and from Cairns

A Thriving Airport

Cairns Airport is the seventh busiest international and domestic passenger airport in Australia, having handled a combined 130,000 aircraft and over 5.2 million passenger movements per year.

A Significant Economic Driver

The airport is widely recognised as one of the most significant economic drivers in the region, enabling the export of agricultural produce as well as promoting growth in the education and tourism sectors.

Being able to easily import and export goods opens up a wealth of possibilities for new and established businesses. Tourism is also heavily reliant on air connectivity not only for international travels, but for domestic visitors.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the many attractions in the region as well as the World Heritage Listed Wet Tropics area, one of the oldest continually surviving rainforests in the world.

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Founded in 1928

Reverend John Flynn
founded the Royal Flying
Doctors service in Cloncurry,
Queensland.

20 Aircraft in Queensland

Bases in Brisbane, Bundaberg,
Cairns, Charleville, Longreach,
Mount Isa, Rockhampton,
Roma and Townsville.

Iconic Australian Service

Delivering the finest care to
more than 290,000 Australians
each year, that's one person
every two minutes.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS) is one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world. Before there was the Flying Doctor, there was little medical help for those living in remote and rural locations. If they were seriously injured, they had to travel hundreds of kilometres by horse, cart, or camel to reach a doctor and many didn't make it.

The RFDS's moto is 'The Furthest Corner, The Finest Care'. The Cairns base looks after the area from Cape York, west to Normanton, then north to Horn Island - approximately 300,000 square kilometres.

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