CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

PO Box 2148 CAIRNS Q 4870
m: 0418871011
e: cummings@cummings.net.au
w: www.cummings.net.au

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TNQ'S AVIATION HISTORY TAKES A FORWARD STEP

Tropical (Far) North Queensland has played a distinct and special role in Australia's aviation history – the early pioneering of routes to its remote 'Outback', Tommy McDonald's pioneering of air services between Cairns and Brisbane, the Aerial Ambulance precursor to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Bob Norman and Bush Pilots, its links with aviation in Papua New Guinea, the war-time drama, crop spraying, helicopter mustering, tourism services and the development of Cairns Airport as northern Australia's leading international airport.

In much of this, Mareeba with its war-time bomber and fighter airstrips, rapidly built during the emergencies of 1942, has played an important role.

Congratulations to the group of enthusiasts who have recently achieved funding for a further major forward step in their development of the Far North Queensland Aviation Museum. Cummings Economics have been very pleased to be involved with supporting demand and economic impact analysis to help with funding applications.



It is highly appropriate that the region have its own aviation museum recording its proud story in this field for current and future generations.

The FNQ Aviation Museum adds to the range of visitor attractions the region presents. Mareeba is the right place for such a museum.

Apart from the Mareeba airstrip's special role in the region's aviation history, Mareeba's drier climate is more favourable for preservation.

The Aviation Museum at Mareeba joins a number of other aviation museums around Australia including the Temora Aviation Museum in New South Wales, the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society HARS Aviation Museum - Albion Park Wollongong, the South Australian Aviation Museum and in Queensland, the Queensland Air Museum Caloundra. There are also the commemorative displays at Bundaberg (Bert Hinkler) and QANTAS Founders Museum at Longreach (as birthplace of the Queensland And Northern Territory Aerial Service).

WS (Bill) Cummings *BEcon (UQ), HonDEcon (CQU)*

The FNQAM Hangar 2 extensions will be officially opened on Saturday 5th December 2026 at 10am.



FNQ Aviation Museum, JRM Braes Road, Mareeba
President - Brendan Kent 0422 379 984
Secretary - Kylie Morris secretary@fnqam.com.au