



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

The Hon David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Drought Preparation and Response
Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

May 10, 2019

Qantas Museum upgrade shows the sky's the limit

Tourism in Central West Queensland is set to take flight next year, with Stage 1 of a two-stage process to expand the Qantas Founders Museum now underway.

Maranoa MP David Littleproud, who turned the first sod today (May 10), said the project – which was fully funded by the Coalition Federal Government with \$11.3 million – will ensure the region's cultural heritage and the Qantas story is preserved and told to future generations.

"It's fitting that we continue to enhance the Qantas Founders Museum here in Longreach because this is where the company got its wings back in 1920 and aviation still plays a very important role in Outback Queensland today whether it's for travel or business," Mr Littleproud said.

"Tourism bolsters the local economy, this is the Year of the Outback and we have a fantastic aviation story that dates back almost a century.

"It's going to be an impressive addition to Longreach when the project is completed in 2020 and more than 49,000 tourists are expected to visit the museum once the two-stage process is finished.

"For now, the first stage of this project will include the construction of an 8,072-square-metre airpark roof to provide weather protection for four aircraft as well as building a 9.5-metre-high viewing platform.

"It will also see new pedestrian pathways linking the current museum to the airpark structure and the installation of lighting, enabling sunset and evening tours."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack said once complete the upgrade will create a unique tourism experience in Longreach.

“In addition to driving tourism, the Coalition Federal Government’s \$11 million investment will support 24 jobs during construction and seven ongoing roles once complete, providing an economic boost to the Central West,” Mr McCormack said.

“Following the likely completion of Stage 1 in early 2020, the next stage of this project will add a variety of new features, including a story-telling light show, an elevated walkway and al fresco dining – giving interstate and international tourists every reason to visit Longreach.”

ENDS

Media Contact:

Martin Volz

M: 0475 160 465

E: martin.volz@aph.gov.au
