Connecting Brisbane to the world for 100 years

2025 marks the centenary of Brisbane Airport. Across the years there have been many milestone moments worth celebrating.

1928
Sir Charles Kingsford Smith landed the first trans-Pacific flight from California to Brisbane in the Southern Cross aircraft.

1946
Eagle Farm resumed civil operations after WWII.

1971
Current Brisbane Airport site secured with a master plan for a parallel runway system.

1980
Development begins on the building of a new Brisbane Airport. 14 million cubic metres of sand was used to stabilise the swampy land for the new air traffic control tower, terminal, aprons, taxiways and runways.

2000s
BNE gains momentum with a raft of airlines and routes added to the network including Virgin Australia (2000), China Airlines (2003), Emirates (2003), Jetstar (2004), Etihad (2007) and China Southern (2010).

2012
Site preparation and reclamation works started on Brisbane's New Runway site in July 2012 and continued for five years to stabilise the ground for construction due to extremely poor strength soils and swamp in the area.

2017
Construction started on Brisbane's New Runway including the airfield, Dryandra Road underpass, runway and lighting.

2023
Brisbane Airport embarks on its biggest transformation ever, a $5 billion+ investment over the next decade and includes over 150 projects starting with security upgrades at both Terminals.

1925
Eagle Farm Aerodrome was officially opened by the Commonwealth Government on 36 hectares of agricultural land.

1926
Qantas began its Brisbane service.

1941
During WWII, the Eagle Farm Aerodrome was part of a network of airports and airfields rapidly built or upgraded to defend Australia and support operations in The Pacific and Asia. The United States military upgraded our grass airfields to three hard-surface runways.

1960s
2,700 hectares of land was set aside 5 kilometres north towards Moreton Bay for future expansion.

1975
A temporary International Terminal opened at Eagle Farm featuring a visual expression of a passenger's journey in its interior design, including a cloud motif for the departure lounge, inviting passengers to "take to the sky". This artwork was created by local architect Don Watson.

1988
In March 1988 at 2.45pm the last departure from Eagle Farm took off on Runway 4. It was a special charity charter Ansett Boeing 767-277 VH-RME. The flight returned to the new Brisbane Airport landing on Runway 19L.

The new airport opened just in time to welcome the world to Brisbane for Expo 88.

1995
The new International Terminal opened to serve increased international travel demand.

2007
Brisbane's New Runway construction project is approved by the Federal Government. A parallel runway system, in which both runways can operate simultaneously, was part of long-term planning for Brisbane Airport since 1971.

2008
The International Terminal expansion was completed including an additional 33,000 square metres of space across all four floors of the Terminal with better airline processing, retail, customs, security and baggage areas.

2014
The G20 was one of the most important logistical events in Brisbane Airport's history with the arrival and departure of more than 70 State and support aircraft.

2020
Brisbane's New Runway opened on 12 July.

2022 - 2024
Our network into the United States grew with United Airlines connecting San Francisco (October, 2022), American Airlines flying to Dallas-Fort Worth (October, 2024) and Delta Air Lines launching flights to Los Angeles (December, 2024).

2025
100 years of Brisbane Airport!

By the end of 2025, both the Domestic and International Terminals will have security upgrades completed, with other renovations continuing into 2026.

Watch video:

For a full history timeline:
bne.com.au/history

100 YEARS 1925-2025
BRISBANE AIRPORT