

FLYING HIGH IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

DEVELOPER : Cairns Airport
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Hutchinson Builders

The Cairns Airport T2 Terminal Upgrade involves the construction of a state-of-the-art terminal utilising more natural light and providing a relaxed atmosphere. The project also includes the expansion of the existing facility to 10,000m², an improved departures hall layout with additional seating, simplifying navigation of the terminal for passengers, and an additional 2,000m² of dining and retail options creating a first class airport experience and showcasing the best of tropical North Queensland to the world.

The Cairns Airport T2 Terminal Upgrade includes the expansion of the existing facility to 10,000m² as well as an additional 2,000m² of dining and retail options. The additions and renovations will create a more efficient and modern space that simplifies navigation of the terminal while showcasing the best of tropical North Queensland.

The \$70 million upgrade will future proof the terminal with domestic traffic expected to grow by 40% over the next decade. This equates to around six million passengers who will now have a world class airport experience. The upgrade includes a redesigned departures hall, additional seating, the reconfiguration of boarding gates to reduce queues and an expanded security screening area. With the aim of representing the region from its sense of place, its food and its culture, developers Cairns Airport increased the number of food and retail tenancies to 33. As part of the new look terminal, Cairns Airport is working with a number of local tourism operators to support and promote tourism activities across the region.

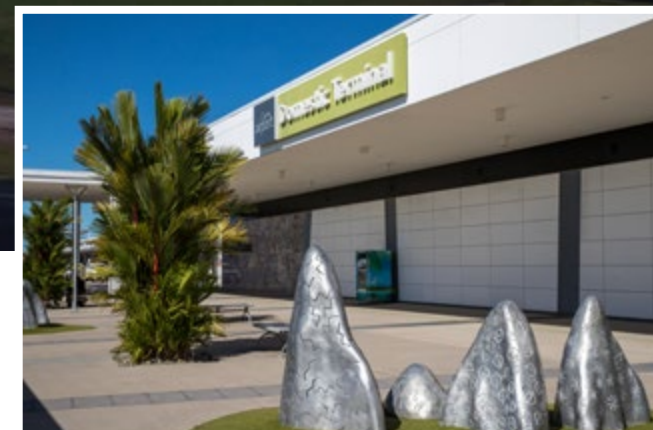
Planning for the T2 upgrade began in early 2018 with the project out to tender by the end of that year. Cairns Airport Head of

Infrastructure Alan Dugan said The T2 upgrade began in early 2018. “An essential component of our tender process was to support local business. Hutchinson Builders were awarded the contract based on their strong local relationships and their environmental and sustainable work practices.”

Onsite work commenced in February 2019 with screw piles chosen for the footings to reduce the noise and vibration resulting from driven piles. The structure is a standard concrete frame with Colorbond roofing and CFC wall linings.

“The major challenge of the job was working in the live environment,” said Alan. “The airport remained operational and a lot of intricate construction planning was required. We closed off areas of the terminal to complete portions of the work before moving on to repeat the process, we managed to achieve a balance between the progress of the build and maintaining the level of service.”

The terminal upgrade was completed within 18 months, earlier than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions reducing the numbers of passengers passing through the terminal. “We certainly took advantage



of the reduced air traffic and passenger numbers,” Alan continued. “In parallel with the terminal upgrade, it afforded us the opportunity to resurface a runway more efficiently.”

Environmentally sustainable features include carbon neutral tiles and new carpet made from recycled fishing nets, providing a source of income to small fishing villages in the Philippines; and hardwearing local Queensland timbers chosen for their beauty and durability have been used for cabinetry and joinery items.

The terminal’s upgraded waste management strategy incorporates three stream waste bins and a macerator that reduces organic food waste from the terminal for composting. LED lighting was installed throughout and the design utilises more natural light with the reinstatement of existing skylights as well as the addition of new skylights and feature windows.

Another significant milestone achieved by Cairns Airport concerned the collaboration between Hutchinson Builders and the many associated subcontractors working for the separate tenants. Overall more than 5% of subcontractors employed on the T2 upgrade



identified as Indigenous, and over 12% of those engaged on the project were apprentices. The project generated over 300 jobs during the construction period and another 150 permanent positions on completion.

The provision of a new Quiet Room satisfies Cairns Airport’s commitment to the provision and maintenance of infrastructure, activities and services free from discrimination of people with disabilities, their associates and aides. A more relaxed atmosphere has been achieved with an interactive play screen for children as well as an upgraded Parenting Room.

“The new terminal is light and airy, modern and comfortable,” said Alan. “We certainly achieved the Wow factor.”

For more information contact Cairns Airport, Airport Avenue, Cairns Airport, Cairns QLD 4870, phone 07 4080 6703, email enquiries@cairnsairport.com.au, website www.cairnsairport.com.au

Below Cairns Certified Hoardings installed hundreds of meters of hoarding on the project including a cyclone rated hoarding 4.5m high.

Fibre Optics NQ

Below Fibre Optics NQ installed cabling, data racks and wireless access points within the new terminal within 18 months.



Established in 2015, Cairns Certified Hoardings supply, install and remove internal and external engineer certified construction hoardings. Starting in early 2020 Cairns Certified Hoardings provided the barriers that safely separated the construction work from the live environment of Cairns Domestic Terminal.

“We supplied and installed all the internal and external hoardings in the public areas and they had to be both structurally sound as well as aesthetically pleasing to suit the airport’s high standards,” Owner Director, Steve Zeiger explained.

The live airport environment required the hoardings to be removed and reinstalled at night, usually within a five hour window, moving with the project as the terminal works progressed. “Sometimes we removed and reinstalled in excess of 150 linear metres of hoarding in a single night,” said Steve. “Communication was critical and Hutchinson Builders proved to be a brilliant company to work with.”

The team also worked with security to ensure all the different security requirements were met for each area, including ‘airside’ areas, and that inspections went smoothly. “We’ve learned to work with a minimum amount of tools due to security inspections,” explained Steve.

Cairns Certified Hoardings specialise in the installation of the Titan Hoarding System – a free standing system that doesn’t need fixing to existing ceilings, bulkheads or floors. The option for 16mm white board panels used for the internal hoardings make it easy to apply advertising vynal, and the same, or plywood can be used for external work.

“We also installed a cyclone rated hoarding 4.5m high, designed by Titan’s engineer, and it was still much cheaper than building a cyclone rated wall,” explained Steve.

Cairns Certified Hoardings are experienced in commercial building projects and take the dynamic working environment in their stride with a number of regular shopping centre clients. Recently completed projects are the DFS Galleria Reconfiguration and the Cairns Central Southern Reconfiguration”

For more information contact Cairns Certified Hoardings, 3-44 Janett Street, Yorkeys Knob QLD 4878, phone 0407 839 324, email admin@cch.solutions

Fibre Optics NQ (FONQ) is a leading telecommunication installation company supplying and fitting telecommunications infrastructure around Far North Queensland and the Torres Straits.

FONQ completed various works at the Cairns Airport terminal upgrade including the installation of cabling, data racks and wireless access points, and had the whole project completed within 18 months with a team of six installers working quickly and efficiently on the busy live site.

“We upgraded the existing ICT infrastructure within the domestic terminal,” explained Director, Gino Amadio. “New work involved installing cabling in the plant and communications room as well as in the new retail tenancies. The challenge of the job was working within the live environment, keeping the operation of the airport as a priority.”

Fibre Optics NQ is a thriving indigenous business employing 13 of the most certified of any telecommunications installers in the region. Established in 2001 FONQ supply, install and certify fibre optic as well as copper and wireless networks.

“We specialise in guaranteed and certified cabling systems to optimise our clients digital structure,” said Gino. “We have a strong record of delivery in telecommunications for large government and private projects, data centres and the mining industry, including developments in remote areas. We have sophisticated equipment and expert staff to provide the specific service of fusion splicing and testing every fibre optic cable that is connected.”

The company has ISO certification and a professional culture committed to quality, environment and safety. “Our mission is to be the best telecommunications cabling company in Australia and to be a proud role model for other indigenous businesses,” said Gino.

Recent projects include James Cook University’s Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine and Cairns State Special School. They have also installed network cabling for critical services across the far north including upgrading the network at 14 police stations throughout the Torres Straits.

For more information contact Fibre Optics NQ, 233 Lyons Street, Westcourt QLD 4870, phone 07 4041 7772, email info@fibreopticsnq.com.au, website www.fibreopticsnq.com.au



Air Traffic Control Tower Cairns Airport

Below IRT Roofing installed a total of 12,000m² of metal roofing throughout the Cairns Airport and T2 upgrade.



IRT Roofing (IRT) specialises in the successful delivery of large-scale metal roofing projects with tight timelines. In July 2019 IRT Roofing were awarded the contract for 9,000m² of metal roof replacement as well as 3,000m² of roofing for the new domestic terminal at Cairns Airport.

IRT had their North Queensland Project Manager onsite full time and engaged local tradespeople. With a core group of 12, the job was completed by July 2020 and that included a four-month shut down period during the wet season.

“We are experienced at working on large projects but the logistics of working in a live airport environment was a whole new ball game,” said Operations Manager, Damien Gunn. “The challenge of the job included all the unknowns that come with refurbishment, the unpredictable weather, working at night and the many airport safety regulations. It was definitely a team effort with great results.”

“We were fortunate to have a highly experienced project management team dedicated to delivering a high-quality finish and we are very proud to announce the safety result of zero incidents on completion.”

Established in 2002, IRT is a Queensland-based company servicing the hospitality, commercial, industrial and residential sectors. Through working with expert partners like BlueScope Steel and local roll formers from all regions IRT has acquired years of experience to deal with any project in any environment.

IRT has grown into a group of divisions covering everything from large roofing projects, wall cladding, demolition and asbestos removal, insurance and repair of storm damage as well as ventilation and insulation projects. “This has seen our crew mobilise throughout Australia to areas like Hamilton Island, Canberra, Northern New South Wales, Rockhampton and more,” added Damien.

IRT Roofing has successfully completed over 40 projects with Hutchinson Builders that include the prestigious, heritage listed Yungaba House and the St Luke’s Aged Care facilities in Brisbane City. They have also completed over 1,000 projects which includes the Cairns Convention Centre, Queensland State Netball Centre, and the stylish wall cladding in the All Saints School, Merrimac.

For more information contact IRT Roofing, 1/38 Neumann Road, Capalaba QLD 4157, phone 07 3823 3354, website www.irt.net.au