Happy 90th Birthday Qantas

The Northern Territory Government congratulates Qantas Airways on celebrating its 90th birthday this month.

Tourism Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said that since its humble beginnings in 1920 as the *Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd*, Qantas has maintained its strong attachment to the Territory.

“Qantas has always been part of the Northern Territory and it has remained committed to the NT when other airlines have withdrawn services,” said Ms McCarthy.

“The Government will continue its successful working relationship with Qantas including opportunities to increase flights to the NT and other business opportunities.”

Tourism Minister Malarndirri McCarthy will represent the Northern Territory Government at Qantas’ Black Tie reception in Sydney tonight.

Qantas’ involvement in the Territory includes:

- In 1935, Qantas operated its first overseas flight from Darwin to Singapore carrying air mail bound for the UK in cooperation with Imperial Airways.
• In 1974, Qantas established a world record by evacuating 673 passengers on one of its flights from Darwin after the city was devastated by Cyclone Tracy.
• In 2001, following the collapse of Ansett Airlines, Qantas increased operations to the NT and carried stranded passengers home.
• Indigenous artists from Uluru and Borroloola feature on two Qantas aircraft.
• Qantas operates over 100 flights per week (more than 17,000 seats per week) from across Australia to the NT and is the only airline operating flights between Darwin and Alice Springs, and Uluru and Alice Springs.

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