



# Qantas Founders Museum Media Release

**4 April 2016**

## **Qantas Founders Museum fundraising appeal for iconic Super Constellation Project**

Qantas Founders Museum is raising \$ 1.5 million to create a new aircraft display for the museum which will generate more visitors and inject further tourism dollars into the drought stricken town of Longreach and the Outback Queensland Region generally.

Qantas Founders Museum is a not for profit organisation which tells the story of Australia's national airline, Qantas Airways, and how it began in Western Queensland in 1920. The museum has a variety of exhibits, interactive displays, artefacts and aircraft including an original Qantas Boeing 747, Boeing 707, DC3 and a Catalina flying boat.

In September 2014, the museum was the successful bidder for Lockheed Super Constellation N4247K, in an auction held by the Manila International Airport Authority. The aircraft, which had been grounded in Manila for 25 years, had been used by World Fish and Agriculture Inc to transport fish cargo and had been previously operated by the United States Navy.

The Super Constellation Project goal is to transport the aircraft to Longreach where it will be restored to appear as a late 1950's Qantas Super Constellation and be included in the museum's aircraft collection, with innovative interior displays which will form the basis of another aircraft tour experience for visitors. Due to the condition of the aircraft, the museum is investigating transport options to Australia, including by ship or even possibly in an Antonov aircraft. The aircraft will then be transported by road to Longreach.

Since the aircraft purchase, the museum has funded and completed the early stages of the project including extracting the aircraft from its mud encrusted position, lifting it and conducting extensive work to make the aircraft safe, secure and towable, disassembling and storage of the aircraft ready for transportation by ship.

CEO of Qantas Founders Museum Tony Martin said the inclusion of the Super Constellation would increase visitor numbers to the museum and Outback Queensland region and appealed to businesses and individuals to assist the Super Constellation Project through financial and in kind support.

"Qantas Founders Museum has always seen an increase in visitors when a new aircraft exhibit is introduced to our collection such as the Boeing 747 in 2002 or the Boeing 707 in 2007, an iconic aircraft such as the Super Constellation will no doubt bring new and repeat customers to our museum and region."

"Longreach, like much of Western Queensland, is enduring one of the worst droughts in its history, the restoration and launch of Super Constellation will create jobs directly through the museum and indirectly through museum visitors staying in the region and requiring local services."

“Qantas Founders Museum is a not for profit organisation, we are a fully sustainable museum, with all profits going back into the museum and its exhibits. However with a project of this size, we need all the help we can get whether it is in kind or financial support.” Mr Martin said

To donate to the museum and its projects, go to the Qantas Founders Museum website donation page at: [www.qfom.com.au/donate-to-our-museum](http://www.qfom.com.au/donate-to-our-museum) and follow the links or contact the museum by phone on: 07 4658 3737 or email: [info@qfom.com.au](mailto:info@qfom.com.au).

### **Information about the Super Constellation and Qantas**

The Constellation is an iconic aircraft in the history of Qantas and Australian Aviation for the following reasons:

- The Constellation operated the Qantas Kangaroo Route air services between London and Sydney from 1947.
- The Constellation was the first aircraft that enabled Qantas to establish long-range overseas air service in its own right.
- This was the longest air service in the world using the same aircraft all the way.
- A Super Constellation operated the first Qantas trans-Pacific air service in 1954.
- The Constellation was the first Qantas aircraft to feature flight hostesses.
- The Constellation was the first pressurised aircraft operated by Qantas.
- Qantas Super Constellations operated the first ever regular round-the-world air services via both hemispheres in 1958.

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