

# AVIATION AT DALY WATERS

Updated: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2002



## FLYING FOX DALY WATERS

The still operational flying fox over Daly Waters creek was an important part of the operation of the Daly Waters Aerodrome during the wet seasons of the late 1930's and early 1940's. Prior to the construction of the bridge over the creek in 1946, the flying fox provided an essential link for both transportation and communication between the Aerodrome and the township. It is also significant as an expression of the determination of outback pioneers to prevail over their harsh environment.

**Gazetted: 12<sup>th</sup> October 1994**

## DALY WATERS AVIATION COMPLEX

The Daly Waters Aviation Complex is of considerable importance to the Northern Territory's aviation heritage.

Architecturally, the complex contains the oldest hangar in the Northern Territory. The hangar was transported, along with the oil store, to Daly Waters by the Sidney Williams Company in 1930 and erected in its present position.

Other remaining structures were built between 1940 and 1960. They were important elements of an international and military aerodrome operating during the pioneering and development period of North Australian aviation.

As an international stopover the Aerodrome was visited by prominent people of the day. Technically, it represents an era of Australian aviation in which aircraft with the longest range could not traverse Australia without numerous stops to refuel. As such, the complex is of importance to the history of Australian aviation.

The complex also has significance as the planned rail terminus and as a vital link in postal communications. Its origins are connected with the ill-fated Darwin to Alice Springs railway, which was planned to terminate at Daly Waters but only reached Birdum. Daly Waters became the distribution point for mail services between the "Top End" and the remainder of Australia.

**Gazetted: 12<sup>th</sup> October 1994**



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