



# Humble beginnings

## The construction industry has changed the face of Queensland

**T**HE construction industry has come a long way in the past 150 years.

Construction and the ongoing expansion of infrastructure have shaped the skyline of Queensland.

From iconic buildings to bridges and apartments blocks, the industry has helped forge the state into the new century.

Woollam Constructions is one organisation which has been at the forefront of the industry.

As Queensland celebrates its 150th birthday, Woollam is not too far behind – celebrating its 125th year of operation.

From its humble beginnings as a small building and joinery business established in Brisbane by English migrant Thomas Wool-

lam, the company has grown to be a major industry player.

The business boasts more than 170 employees and has branches operating in Mackay, Rockhampton, Brisbane and Ballina and is involved in projects as far west in Queensland as Longreach and far south as Coff's Harbour on the north coast of New South Wales.

It proudly holds the title of the state's oldest privately owned construction firm.

Understandably, Woollam's history can be seen in various places around the state.

The company undertook its first project in Brisbane in the late 1800s and has links with two of Queensland's most iconic buildings.

Woollam Constructions was responsible for the original Breakfast Creek Hotel, which was constructed in 1888.

One hundred years later, the organisation was involved with the building of Longreach's Stockman's Hall of Fame.

Since then the Brisbane office has become the backbone of strategic growth and business planning.

Mackay-based co-director Craig Percival said the anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on the company's achievements and to acknowledge how firmly the company had become entrenched in the community.

Mr Percival said during its history, Woollam Constructions had employed and trained more than

1000 apprentices, trainees and building cadets.

This year will see Woollam Constructions involved in building projects worth more than \$100 million.

Currently on the books is the Yeppoon Hospital, a police station in Yeppoon and another in Cannonvale, Prescare Carina's aged care facility, City Beach's warehouse at Murarrie, Mackay's convention centre and the refurbishment of the Casino TAFE.

Woollam is also a part of the construction process for a number of projects receiving Q150 funding from the Queensland government, highlighting the importance of both the company's 125th and the state's sesquicentenary celebrations.



From old to new, Woollam Constructions has a 125-year history.



Woollam Constructions played an integral role in developing the original Breakfast Creek Hotel.



Woollam has a range of new projects on its books.