Name: *Queensland Past and Present: 100 Years of Statistics, 1896–1996*

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more competitive than sea transport. Wharves remained highly labour intensive until containerisation and other improved handling innovations reduced the amount of labour required. Employment in water transport fell from 5,184 persons in 1981 to 1,652 in 1986.

The number of persons engaged in air transport has increased more than fivefold since World War II as air transport overtook rail as the major method of long distance travel. The growth in international travel since the 1960s has also contributed to the increase in employment. Air transport employed 5,125 persons in 1991 compared with 974 in 1947.

SUMMARY

The earliest transport in Queensland was shipping as there were no roads or tracks linking Brisbane and Sydney, or Brisbane and northern outposts such as Rockhampton and Townsville. As settlement spread, horses, bullocks and camels became important means of transport for both people and goods.

A rail system was well established in Queensland by 1896 with separate lines in the southern, central and northern divisions running westward from coastal areas. A rail linking these coastal areas was not completed until 1924. Horses, bullocks and camels could not compete with rail along the main routes, although they still dominated in remote areas. Rail and the emergence of motor vehicles led to the end of animal transport on a commercial basis.

Railway line expansion slowed in the 1920s and ceased from the 1930s as technology and better roads meant that motor vehicles were becoming more viable than rail. However, rail remained and still is an important means of transport for many purposes and in many areas. Air transport became commercially viable in the 1920s, initially for mail runs.

Since World War II road and air transport of both people and goods have increased greatly. Freight carried by rail has also increased substantially, although passenger numbers in 1995–96 were not much higher than in 1945–46. Shipping has become an important transport means, especially for commodities exported to other countries, with the volume of cargo shipped from Queensland ports in 1995–96 exceeding that shipped in 1945–46 by nearly 100-fold.

The various modes of transport compete against one another, although to a large extent each one has its own specialised areas of passenger and goods transportation. They also coordinate with one another, so that people and goods often travel by several modes of transport before reaching their destination.

Endnotes


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6. Pike, p. 266.
15. Blainey, p. 298.
32. Brimson, p. 28.
34. Brimson, p. 35.
37. Brimson, p. 86.
38. Brimson, p. 15.