

CELEBRATING

150

years of rail  
in Queensland

1865 - 2015



## Restoring an icon Roma Street's heritage station building

This year Roma Street Station's heritage building, located on platform 3, reaches an impressive 140 years of age. The iconic building was erected between 1874 and 1875 and is not only the oldest station building in Brisbane, but is also considered the earliest surviving major station in any capital city in Australia.

After more than four years of careful restoration work, the building will be front and centre at Queensland Rail's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at Roma Street Station from Monday 27 to Friday 31 July 2015.

### The restoration

Since 2011, Queensland Rail has worked to significantly restore Roma Street's heritage listed station building, located on platform 3, to stabilise its structure and preserve its cultural significance.

#### Works included:

- Removal of exterior paint which had been trapping moisture causing brick and stone deterioration
- Restoration of original brickwork
- New roofing to prevent water intrusion
- Roof re-profiled on the western side to match the original design
- High level windows restored and painted
- Chimneys and columns restored by specialist brick and plasterer contractors
- Internal stabilisation and weather proofing.





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Considerable research was undertaken to source bricks that would match those used in the initial construction of Roma Street Station. A brick restoration specialist was engaged to source bricks from the United Kingdom that matched the size and texture of the originals.

Similarly, slate materials used to reinstate the original slate tiled roof were obtained from the original quarry source in Wales.

Over the course of the project, 25 tonnes of asbestos sheeting, 1.5 tonnes of deteriorated timber and 5.9 tonnes of lead paint were safely

removed from the building and more than 2300 bricks and 15,000 slates were installed.

## Roma Street Station through time

Roma Street Station, originally known as 'Brisbane Terminal Station' was Brisbane's very first railway station when it opened in 1875. The now heritage listed building was designed by prominent Queensland architect, FDG Stanley, and was in full operational use for more than 120 years.

As the railway expanded up the North Coast between 1888 and 1924, Roma Street Station quickly replaced Ipswich as the centre of the rail network, linking northern Queensland to Brisbane. The station was not only the main terminal for passenger trains but also served as a major freight terminal for around 115 years.



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In 1889, 'Brisbane Central Railway Station' opened and Brisbane Terminal Station became known as 'Roma Street Railway Station'. Although it was no longer the main terminal, excavation work began in



1911 to increase the size of the shunting and goods yards, and modern locomotive and carriage sheds were constructed near the present Bowen Hills station in 1928.

On 30 November 1940, Roma Street Station reclaimed its status as the principal station for country, or long distance services with a new brick station and platforms opening to the south of the existing platforms. The 1940 country station was demolished to make way for the present

Transit Centre which was opened in 1986, and the Roma Street Goods Yard was finally closed and redeveloped from 1991.

Today, Roma Street Station is widely known as the point where Queensland Rail's Citytrain and long distance services meet, with most long distance services now departing from platform 10 which was opened in 1995.