

MEDIA RELEASE

9 October 2020

Flights to Ballina-Byron Bay extended until January 2021

Return flights to Ballina-Byron Bay from Canberra Airport will be extended until 29 January 2021 – an additional 14 weeks longer than planned. Operated by Fly Pelican, the route has seen 900 flights inbound and outbound since its commencement on 3 July 2020.

Flights were initially proposed to stop at the end of August, however due to popular demand, were extended until 23 October, making this the second extension. The extension of the direct flight has been brought about by the high demand from Canberrans looking for warmer weather up north, and northerners looking for a cultural experience in the Capital.

Canberra Airport Head of Aviation, Michael Thomson is proud to announce the extension and further the partnership with Fly Pelican and Ballina Byron Airport.

“Our partnership with Fly Pelican and Ballina Byron Airport has been tremendously beneficial to Canberra Airport and the region, assisting Canberra with its recovery from the effects of COVID-19.

“We are seeing a very positive return of aviation with flights increasing from 34 two weeks ago to 66 this week and, with more flights and more destinations on offer like Ballina-Byron, we are confident this will continue,” Mr Thomson said.

The extension comes after the recent announcements of Alliance Airlines flying direct from Canberra to the Sunshine Coast from October 23 and Link Airways flying direct from Canberra to Hobart from December 3.

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Manager, Julie Stewart, has high hopes for the future travel between Canberra and Ballina-Byron.

“This is certainly great news for our partnership between Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, Canberra Airport and Fly Pelican. It’s pleasing to see that the strong demand for this service has surpassed our original forecasts and will see the service extended into the Christmas and January holiday season”, Julie Stewart said.

The number of passengers travelling to these routes could be attributed to the decreasing risk of COVID-19 in NSW. With no requirement to quarantine for 14 days, people and families are using this as an opportunity to travel interstate. The popularity of the Ballina, Brisbane and Gold Coast routes as illustrated in the passenger figures suggests there is a high incentive and confidence for domestic air travel.

Prices remain the same from the initial launch, with seats starting from \$229 one way. Bookings for the Canberra direct service are available via flypelican.com.au

For more information on how the Canberra Airport is working to keep passengers safe during and beyond COVID-19 go to: <https://www.canberraairport.com.au/>

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