

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**01 October 2020**

### **Direct flights from Canberra Airport to Port Macquarie**

Canberra Airport has today announced the commencement of direct flights between Canberra and Port Macquarie, in partnership with Port Macquarie Airport and regional airline Fly Pelican.

From 1 November, Fly Pelican will fly direct twice a week from Canberra Airport, with a launch price of \$149 one-way. This will be the first time that Canberrans can fly direct from Canberra Airport to Port Macquarie and represents another exciting chapter for the airport and Fly Pelican on the road to COVID-19 recovery.

For local Canberrans it will offer an opportunity to travel north for their summer holidays and explore the mid north coast. Canberra businesses and tourism operators are sure to welcome the initiative as more inbound visitors will provide much needed support for the local economy.

Head of Aviation, Michael Thomson, said Canberra Airport welcomes the new partnership with the Port Macquarie Airport.

“Fly Pelican has been a long-time partner of Canberra Airport and after the recent success with the Canberra to Ballina/Byron route, we are sure to see similar results again with Canberra to Port Macquarie. We are also delighted to be partnering with Port Macquarie Airport to share this fantastic new travel offering to our regions.”

“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 Port Macquarie, we are confident this will continue, bringing more people to our region and providing more opportunity for Canberrans to travel.” Mr Thomson added.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr added “Having a strong domestic network for Canberra will be critical in helping our local tourism industry recover over the coming months and years. This is another great new route announcement that shows confidence in Canberra as a tourist destination and provides another option for Canberrans to take a short break away.”

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Hawley said Fly Pelican are thrilled to expand their network out of the nation’s capital and connect with the much-loved destination of Port Macquarie.

“The initial twice weekly services will be convenient for the leisure and business traveller, reducing the travel time by many hours. Working collaboratively on the launch of this new route with both airports,

has been a sensible approach to ensure the friends, families and businesses of regional Australia are connected”.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Mayor Peta Pinson welcomed the announcement by Fly Pelican, in partnership with Canberra Airport, of the commencement of direct air services between Port Macquarie and Canberra.

“The new services demonstrates Fly Pelican’s confidence in our growing community and recovery from COVID-19. Direct services to our nation’s Capital will provide an exciting addition to the airline services available at Port Macquarie Airport, and will further promote our region as a leading business and tourism destination on the NSW Mid North Coast”.

This 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.

To book your flights, visit <https://flypelican.com.au/>

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