

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



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JOINING FORCES TO DELIVER A NEW AIR SERVICE

Dubbo Regional Council (DRC), Ballina Shire Council and Fly Pelican have joined together to deliver a new air route to regional New South Wales, at a time when domestic travel is becoming increasingly popular. The new Dubbo – Ballina route took off today, with dozens of passengers choosing to extend the weekend in either Dubbo or the Northern Rivers region.

Mayor of the Dubbo Region, Councillor Ben Shields, says the new route has only been made possible with support from DRC and Ballina Shire Council that provides a 'safety net' for Fly Pelican to offer seats at a starting price of \$149 one-way.

"It's important that our communities support this new route during its trial phase, so that we can continue offering this great service between two incredible locations in regional New South Wales. We welcome our first arrivals from Ballina this afternoon. These passengers have received our Visitor's Guide and information pack so they'll get plenty of ideas for what they can get up to during their visit to the Dubbo region," said Councillor Shields.

Dubbo region residents will be able to experience the beautiful Northern Rivers, NSW with its pristine beaches, laidback lifestyle and flourishing food scene. Exploring hinterland villages and lush rainforests are also worth your while.

Ballina Shire Council Mayor, Councillor David Wright is delighted with the new service. "Ballina Byron Gateway Airport truly is the gateway to the Northern Rivers, NSW and there is so much to see and do here. We live in one of the most enviable places in the world, and are happy to share it with regional NSW visitors" said Councillor Wright.

Assisting DRC and Ballina Shire Council and their associated airports, is Fly Pelican – the small, yet mighty, airline that is offering the service. After seeing great success with routes such as Dubbo – Newcastle, and Ballina – Canberra, Chief Executive Officer of Fly Pelican, Marty Hawley, says it's about time two of the most popular tourist destinations in regional NSW are connected via air.

"We know that more people are choosing to fly if they can, because they want to get to their destination faster in order to spend more time with friends and family at the other end. Our flights leave either Ballina Byron Gateway Airport or Dubbo City Regional Airport on Fridays, and return on Monday morning. It means that passengers can have a nice long weekend, and not have to worry about how they'll get back home," said Mr Hawley.

Flights between the two destinations are on sale now, and can be booked via flypelican.com.au. The trial fare of \$149 one-way is only available for a limited time, so travellers are urged to get in quickly!

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Media contacts:

Dubbo Regional Council: Annabelle Amos | 0436 937 130

Ballina Shire Council: Tracy Lister | 0407 418 737

Fly Pelican: Marty Hawley | (02) 4965 0111

