

## ***Canberra flight route to Ballina extended to January 2021***



On July 3, 2020, Northern Rivers NSW aviation history was made with the first direct flights established between Ballina Byron Gateway Airport and the nation's capital – Canberra.

Independent airline FlyPelican launched the seasonal route with high hopes that locals from both regions would embrace the opportunity to fly directly between these unique parts of Australia. Their hopes have now been more than realised with the route proving such a success that FlyPelican have decided to extend it through to the end of January 2021.

Passengers are now welcome to book flights between Ballina Byron and Canberra through to the extended dates on any of the three weekly flights. Prices remain the same from the initial launch, with seats starting from \$229 one way.

With the busy Spring/Summer season upon us, Canberrans will have the chance to fly up to the Northern Rivers and enjoy some beautiful warm weather, amazing beaches, acclaimed restaurants and the region's relaxed vibe. Conversely residents from the Northern Rivers can travel to Canberra and immerse themselves in the array of experiences available in the nation's capital including world-class museums, Parliament House and local wineries.

Ballina Mayor, Cr. David Wright, sees a lot of positives in the extension of the flight route.

"COVID-19 has adversely affected our tourism, travel and hospitality sectors on immense levels. We're thrilled that local businesses will see an influx of visitors from Canberra and add a much-needed boost to the local economy," said Mayor Wright.

Julie Stewart, Airport Manager for Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, also is excited by the decision.

"We look forward to being able to continue working in partnership with FlyPelican and Canberra Airport and we welcome their commitment to continuing this route so that more Australians can travel to our region," said Stewart.

'The partnership of airports in times of travel restrictions plays a vital part in our regions recovery from the effects of COVID-19'. says Michael Thomson, head of aviation at Canberra Airport.

Bookings for the Canberra direct service are available via ***flypelican.com.au***

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