



Media Release

1 May 2018

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Construction Contract Awarded

At the meeting held on 26 April 2018 Ballina Shire Council resolved to award a construction contract to Woollam Constructions for the expansion and upgrade of the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Terminal.

Council's Commercial Services Manager, Paul Tsikleas, said this was the first stage of a two-stage project worth \$6.9 million. Stage 2 will involve an upgrade of the airport carpark and set down pick up areas.

Construction is expected to commence in May 2018 and, subject to weather, be completed by April 2019. The project is being jointly funded by the NSW Government's Restart NSW Regional Tourism Infrastructure Program contributing \$4.5 million, with the balance funded by Ballina Shire Council.

Mr Tsikleas added that the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport has experienced significant growth in passenger numbers over the past eight years requiring a larger and more efficient terminal building.

Passenger numbers for the Airport have grown from 270,000 in 2010 to 530,000 in 2018. The latest passenger number figures reflect an annual increase of 7% over the past year and place Ballina Byron Gateway Airport in the top 10 of the 50 major regional airports throughout Australia. This group includes Cairns and Hobart airports.

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport is now a major regional airport that generates significant economic benefits and opportunities for businesses and the Far North Coast.

Parliamentary Secretary for Northern NSW Ben Franklin welcomed the news, saying the NSW Government was proud to support projects like this one which boost regional tourism infrastructure.

"The Restart NSW Regional Tourism Infrastructure Program increases the competitiveness and attractiveness of regional NSW by ensuring ongoing and convenient access for visitors," he said.

"The Ballina-Byron area already attracts large numbers of tourists who spend their money in local towns and villages, and this upgrade will ensure the airport has the capacity to cater for more tourist growth, further supporting our local businesses."

Authorised By Paul Hickey General Manager	Media Spokesperson Paul Tsikleas Commercial Services Manager 1300 864 444
---	--



Image: Artist's impression of Terminal Upgrade