Electric Aircraft

Electric aircraft will play a vital role in reducing aviation carbon emissions in the future.

The aviation industry has made exciting advancements in electric and hybrid aircraft technology in recent years, and aircraft operators at Parafield Airport are planning to take up electric or hybrid aircraft types when they become available.

Parafield Airport Limited is actively considering ways to invest in airport infrastructure to support new-generation electric aircraft types as they become certified for use by the Australian Government and are acquired by local operators.

In addition to the reduced carbon emission benefits, electric and hybrid aircraft are generally quieter than current aircraft types, providing improved noise outcomes for the local community.

The take-up of electric aircraft will take time. Industry wide and compared to other general aviation sectors, it is expected to be at a faster rate for the pilot training sector.

Electric aircraft are already being trialled at a number of airports around Australia. In June 2021, the flying school Eyre to There Aviation achieved a world endurance record for electric aircraft when it completed a 1,350km, 18 stop, flight that departed from Parafield Airport.

It is estimated that the proportion of flights by electric and hybrid aircraft types at Parafield Airport could increase from an estimated 17 per cent of total movements in 2031 to nearly 70 per cent in 2043.

Electric Aircraft

0% in 2022 to
~ potential up to 70% in 2043

There are some challenges that must be overcome for electric aircraft to become a viable option for the general aviation industry. These limitations include

- the current battery technology which limits the distance and duration of flights,
- the requirement for large, specialised charging facilities at airports,
- aviation regulations and standards that do not take into account the specific characteristics of electric aircraft, and
- the higher costs associated with manufacturing and therefore purchasing electric aircraft.

SouthAustraliamaybehometoAustralia'sfirst commerciallyproducedelectricaircraft.The E22Sparkisatwo-seateraircraftwithaflight timeofupto90minutes,whichcouldmakeit ideal for training purposes.

Parafield Airport