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# Master Plan 2024 Preliminary Draft Summary

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# About Parafield Airport

Parafield Airport is the major general aviation and pilot training airport in South Australia. The site was originally farmland and was selected for an airport in the early 1920s, with the first aircraft operations commencing in 1927. Parafield Airport has progressively developed to meet the growing aviation and pilot training needs of airlines throughout Australasia. During 2022, Parafield Airport had approximately 4,200 aircraft movements every week, with the majority being pilot training flights.

Parafield Airport is one of three airports within the Adelaide metropolitan area. It is located approximately 25 kilometres to the north of Adelaide Airport and is 10 kilometres to the south of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Edinburgh.

Parafield Airport occupies a site of approximately 433 hectares. Over 103 businesses operate from Parafield Airport, including pilot training and aviation support operations, as well as commercial businesses and retail hubs located within the commercial estate.

Parafield Airport is operated by Parafield Airport Limited (PAL). PAL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Adelaide Airport Limited (AAL) which purchased the operating leases for Adelaide and Parafield airports from the Commonwealth, in May 1998, to operate both airports for the next 50 years with an option for a further 49 years. The lease requires AAL to operate the site as an airport, as well as allowing for other developments to support the economic viability of the airport.

## Have Your Say On Parafield Airport's Future Plans

Your feedback is an important part of developing the Parafield Airport Master Plan 2024. The Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2024 is available for public review and comment until 5.00pm, Thursday 4 April 2024.

Parafield Airport Limited acknowledges the Kaurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of the land. We respect the spiritual relationship with Country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to the Kaurna People today.

# About the Master Plan

The Parafield Airport Master Plan 2024 outlines the vision for the development of Parafield Airport to support aviation activities, land and commercial development, environmental management and infrastructure delivery.

By continuing to focus on sustainable outcomes, finding innovative solutions, short and longer-term planning and delivery of facilities, infrastructure, ground transport and utilities, PAL will ensure that the airport continues to meet the general aviation and aviation training needs of airlines throughout Australasia.

As the operator of Parafield Airport, Parafield Airport Limited (PAL) is required to prepare a Master Plan in accordance with the Airports Act 1996 for approval by the Commonwealth government. The Master Plan forms a comprehensive regime for the ongoing regulation of activities on the airport through consultation with key stakeholders, Commonwealth, state and local government, the aviation industry and the local community.

Master Plan 2024 is the fifth Master Plan prepared by PAL for Parafield Airport. It builds on the aeronautical requirements, environmental management and land use development concepts established in the previous master plans. Master Plan 2024 focuses on the continued development of Parafield Airport as a significant economic driver for northern Adelaide. It is Parafield Airport's primary planning document for the next eight years, as well as presenting the long-term strategic plans for the next 20 years.

# Development of the Master Plan

PAL has undertaken extensive consultation throughout the preparation of the Master Plan 2024. This has included:

- The regular Planning Coordination Forum and Parafield Airport Consultative Committee meetings, which provide feedback on airport planning considerations throughout the development of the Master Plan document
- Briefings conducted with relevant state and local government authorities, aviation industry stakeholders and consultation groups
- Release of an exposure draft version of Master Plan 2024 to specific South Australian and Australian government agencies and key stakeholders.



# Delivering Exceptional Outcomes

Parafield Airport Limited's (PAL) vision for Parafield Airport, as part of Adelaide Airport Limited, is to be:

**Everyone's Favourite Airport.  
Seamless. Connected. Easy.**

To realise this vision, PAL will:

- Nurture strong relationships with stakeholders
- Promote the Northern Adelaide region
- Develop the expertise of its talented team
- Deliver safe, secure and sustainable facilities and services
- Strive for innovative solutions and continuous improvement
- Partner responsibly with the community.

Taking into account PAL's vision for the airport and key development focus areas, the following development objectives underpin the overall development plans in this Master Plan 2024. These objectives also guide specific future investments in facilities and infrastructure across the airport site.

# Driving South Australia's economy

Parafield Airport plays an essential role in the economic prosperity and development of Northern Adelaide and South Australia through employment and value-added production associated with the airport's aviation and non-aviation business activities.

In 2022, Parafield Airport supported 2,570 jobs and contributed an estimated \$354.8 million to South Australia's Gross State Product. The contribution of Parafield Airport to the Northern Adelaide Region is estimated to be 1,670 jobs and \$216.9 million towards the region's Gross Regional Product.

Going forward, the airport will continue to develop as a significant economic generator to Northern Adelaide and South Australia. Recognising the proposed developments over the 20-year planning period of the Master Plan 2024, it is forecast that by 2043 Parafield Airport will contribute \$740 million to Gross State Product, with an estimated 3,342 direct full-time jobs and 6,878 total jobs.

## Development Objectives



Contribute to the economic growth of the Northern Adelaide region



Protect the safety and security of assets and people



Work with pilot training schools, general aviation industry, government, and the community



Deliver innovative solutions for all airport users



Embed sustainability in all that we do



Deliver infrastructure to support operations and the commercial viability of the airport



# Delivering on our promise

Parafield Airport has continued to evolve and develop in line with the requirements and opportunities identified in Master Plan 2017.

Many of the developments outlined in the previous Master Plan have been realised. Recent developments include a mix of aeronautical and non-aeronautical facilities, such as a new hangar for Aerotech, a new ambulance station for SA Ambulance Service, site redevelopment and, construction of the Parafield Service Centre which is anchored by Sydney Tools, RSEA Safety and KFC, relocation of the Rivergum Homes Display Centre, and repurposing the ex-Masters building for the HomeCo facility which includes Officeworks, Supercheap Auto, Tradezone and Tool Kit Depot. Construction of the District Outlet Centre within the Commercial Precinct is now complete, opening to the public on 1 July 2023. These offerings add to the commercial ecology at the airport and attract additional businesses and customers that are drawn to the strengths of the location.

Improvements to airfield infrastructure have also been completed, including a surface spray treatment of Runway 03R/21L, widening of Taxiway Sierra, and an expansion of the southern apron to accommodate additional aircraft parking.



## Snapshot of Parafield Airport 2022



103 individual businesses



433 hectare site



### Employment:

- Direct jobs - 1,249 FTEs.
- Induced jobs - 1,321



### Added to SA state economy in 2022

- Airport Economic Activity – \$354.8 million
- Gross State Product – 0.3%



219,000 aircraft movements in 2022



4 runways



### 40% carbon emission reduction\* in 2022

\* Airports Carbon Accreditation for airport operations

# Planning for growth

Parafield Airport is one of the busiest general aviation airports in Australia. Aircraft movements are dominated by training for commercial pilots. There is a range of other general aviation activities that occur, such as aerial agriculture, aerial photography, search and rescue, firefighting support aircraft, and charter services.

Aircraft movement forecasts influence the development and timing of infrastructure. In 2022, there were 219,000 aircraft movements (including helicopters), down from almost 270,000 movements (including helicopters) in 2019 (pre-COVID pandemic). Aircraft movements at Parafield Airport are forecast to increase to 342,000 by 2043. The new forecast is consistent with Master Plan 2017 and we are not seeing any major changes, just consistent growth.

## Aircraft Movements

209,038 in 2022 to  
~ 330,000 in 2043

## Helicopter Movements

10,074 in 2022 to  
~ 13,000 in 2043

# 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 due to their potential to reduce carbon-related emissions, aircraft noise and operating costs.

Electric and hybrid aircraft are generally quieter than current aircraft types, providing improved noise outcomes for the local community. The Master Plan 2024 considers the future use of electric and hybrid aircraft at Parafield Airport, with Parafield Airport Limited planning to invest in airport infrastructure to support new-generation quieter aircraft types as they become certified for use by the Australian Government and are acquired by local operators.

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.

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

# Sustainability the core of our business

Sustainability is at the core of the way Parafield Airport does business and looks to develop into the future.

The airport has been established for nearly 100 years, and since 1998 has operated under a 50-year lease (with a further 49-year option) arrangement. The sustainable management and development of the airport is essential to ensuring that Parafield Airport can continue to operate and grow for the duration of the airport lease and beyond.

Parafield Airport Limited (PAL) is a sector leader in global airport sustainability and is committed to sustainable business practices to ensure a healthy and safe environment for employees, airport tenants, visitors and the community.

PAL has a Sustainability Policy and Corporate Sustainability Strategy that are the foundation for Parafield Airport's sustainability journey. Together, they provide a documented commitment to sustainability that is core to business planning, development and operations. A key objective is for PAL to integrate the principles of sustainable development and sustainable business practices into planning, design, construction and procurement.

In 2013, Parafield and Adelaide airports were the first airports in Australasia to receive Level 1 accreditation under the independently assessed global Airport Carbon Accreditation program. In 2015, Parafield Airport became the first general aviation airport to achieve Level 2 (Reduction) accreditation, and in 2017 achieved Level 3 (Optimisation) accreditation in recognition of the airport's success in reducing carbon emissions.

The ongoing work in the core areas of environment, social and governance has also been recognised through AAL achieving Asset Sector Leader status for Airports in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) Infrastructure Assessment in 2017 and 2018. The GRESB Asset Sector Leaders Award recognises outstanding leadership across the environment, social and governance elements of Adelaide and Parafield airports.

AAL achieved Asset Sector Leader status for Airports in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) Infrastructure Assessment in 2017 and 2018 in recognition of outstanding leadership across the environment, social and governance elements of Adelaide and Parafield airports.

Parafield Airport also has an important role to play in the long-term sustainability of the aviation industry by providing airport facilities and an operational environment that continues to support world-standard pilot training activities.

**Parafield Airport plays an essential role in the economic prosperity and development of Northern Adelaide and South Australia through creating jobs and supporting businesses**

## 2022



**2,570 Jobs**  
Total employment  
(direct and indirect)



**\$354.8m**  
to the South Australian  
economy  
**0.3%**  
Gross State Product

## 2043 Forecast



**6,878 Jobs**  
Total employment  
(direct and indirect)



**\$740m**  
to the South Australian  
economy

# Looking after the environment

Parafield Airport Limited's (PAL) philosophy is to operate and develop Parafield Airport in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, recognising that the success of the airport can be enhanced by conducting business in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically responsible.

The new Environment Strategy for Parafield Airport is presented in the Master Plan 2024. It builds on the recent environmental commitments and achievements, and covers ground-based environmental aspects associated with the operation of Parafield Airport for the next eight years, including:

- Energy and climate change
- Ground based noise
- Land and heritage management
- Local air quality
- Soil and groundwater
- Stormwater and aquatic ecology
- Waste
- Water resources.

PAL is committed to the effective management of environmental impacts across the airport site. Central to PAL's environmental management is an Environmental Management System which conforms to the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 and provides a structure for planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting and reviewing environmental management at Parafield Airport.

# Working with the community

PAL is proud to take a strong leadership role in the community. As operator of one of the most significant business, training and employment precincts in the northern suburbs, PAL aims to provide support where it will generate a lasting benefit.

Direct investment into the local community has been an ongoing feature of PAL's approach. PAL has a social investment program that supports charities, community events and other not-for-profit organisations forming partnerships across various sectors including aviation, business and community development.

PAL is committed to continued engagement with Commonwealth, South Australian and local government authorities, aviation operators, airport tenants and the community through a range of techniques and forums. This includes the Parafield Airport Consultative Committee, Technical Working Group and Planning Coordination Forum which meet regularly to discuss airport and aviation issues affecting the community, local areas and the State.

# Striving for innovative solutions

Technologies and other innovations will improve and optimise operations for both PAL and its tenants, both aeronautical and commercial. Thinking innovatively will deliver solutions that are right for Parafield Airport's aviation and commercial customers.

PAL continues to work with current and potential tenants to integrate innovative developments across the airport estate.

Technologies that may be considered in the future include infrastructure to support the transition to electric aircraft, support for emerging advanced air mobility technologies, such as electronic vertical take-off and landing aircraft and other crewed, uncrewed or automated aircraft that move people and cargo, and support for contemporary air navigation and air traffic management technology to reduce disruptions and improve useability of Parafield Airport.



It is forecast that the aviation industry will need to supply 602,000 commercial airline pilots between 2033 and 2041, with 41 per cent of these required for countries in Asia and Oceania



## Supporting the aviation industry

Parafield Airport has been a pilot training base since 1927. There are a number of inherent advantages that make Parafield Airport ideal for pilot training, including the flight capacity and safety provided by Parafield Airport's parallel runway system configuration, proximity to surrounding aerodromes and wide range of navigation aids, and the moderate and generally stable weather conditions along with long day-light hours which maximise flight training opportunities throughout the entire year.

Over 90% of current air traffic movements at Parafield Airport are related to pilot training. The major flying schools at Parafield Airport have partnered with universities and TAFE colleges across Australia to deliver a range of tertiary courses in aviation. Commercial pilot training is also provided for a number of international airlines across the Asia and Oceania region, delivering relationship and reputation benefits for South Australia from supporting the training needs of major international airlines.

## Providing world class training facilities

Parafield Airport Limited (PAL) has a clear vision to develop Parafield Airport as an aviation training centre of excellence and a vibrant economic hub, recognised for its positive influence on the community and economy. As a major component of Australia's aviation training infrastructure, Parafield Airport has continued to develop aviation facilities that support efficient operations.

Parafield Airport has four runways – two parallel runways oriented north to south, and two parallel runways oriented east to west – and two helipads. The airfield infrastructure also includes taxiways, aircraft aprons and aircraft parking areas. Aircraft operations are supported by Airservices Australia's Air Traffic Control tower, a Bureau of Meteorology automatic weather station, navigation aids, and aviation fuel facilities.

Fundamental to the successful operation of Parafield Airport is the ongoing development of the airfield to meet the forecast demand in the future. PAL works closely with aircraft operators to make sure that the airfield infrastructure is fit for purpose.

The current runway and taxiway infrastructure is suitable to accommodate both existing and forecast long-term aircraft traffic. The airfield developments proposed in the Master Plan 2024 are either maintenance-driven (to extend the useable life of the infrastructure) or provide opportunity to improve efficiency. This includes surface spray treatments and re-sealing, an upgrade of the runway lighting for the main runway (03L/21R), and a taxiway extension. The Master Plan 2024 also plans for the future expansion of two of the three existing run-up bays (which enable aircraft engine run-up checks to be undertaken prior to departure) and construction of a new run-up bay, as well as potential helipad relocation.



# Land use planning

Parafield Airport's proximity to the surrounding suburbs means that careful planning and consultation is required to ensure that the aviation considerations of the airport are protected, while also ensuring that operational requirements are balanced with the community's needs.

Land use and infrastructure decisions made both on and off the airport site can impact the ability of PAL to maintain and provide facilities which meet the capacity and regulatory expectations that come with operations at a busy general aviation and pilot training airport.

Planning for activities occurring on airport land is governed by Commonwealth legislation, with various strategic documents at the state and local government level influencing the current arrangements and future development of Parafield Airport.

The planning framework used to guide development at Parafield Airport considers the broad overarching desired outcomes for the airport site, while also enabling distinct outcomes to be achieved in particular locations.

## Safeguarding Parafield Airport

The safety of aircraft operations to and from Parafield Airport, and the capacity of the airport to operate and respond to growing demand, can be directly impacted by inappropriate land use and activities that occur on the land surrounding the airport.

Long-term and effective protection and safeguarding of Parafield Airport is critical to ensuring ongoing aviation operations and safety. The safeguarding of the airport, which refers to measures taken to minimise inappropriate land uses and activities around an airport, is the shared responsibility of PAL and all levels of government.

The Parafield Airport Master Plan 2024 considers the National Airports Safeguarding Framework guidelines which seek to enhance the current and future safety, viability and long-term growth of aviation operations at Australian airports.

Protection of the airspace around Parafield Airport is critical to ensure safe and ongoing operations of the airport. This means that in certain areas around an airport there are restrictions on the height of buildings or structures, including cranes. There may also be restrictions on other activities that could pose a hazard to air navigation, such as those causing light reflection that could blind or confuse pilots, air turbulence, emissions (steam, gas, smoke, dust or other particular matter), or that could attract wildlife.

# Commercial developments

Parafield Airport is one of the largest private commercial land holdings within the northern Adelaide metropolitan area.

It is anticipated that Parafield Airport will continue to attract significant investment in industrial and commercial developments. The availability of large vacant landbanks at Parafield Airport, as well as the airport's geographical location and connectivity to major infrastructure, provide an opportunity to meet growing demand for industrial and commercial land in a manner that is aligned with both Adelaide and national trends. This includes demand for buildings with larger footprints and commercial offerings catering for specialised markets, such as defence and technology.

It is vital that developments at Parafield Airport are achieved in a manner that is compatible with adjacent land uses and without compromising the airport's operational integrity and economic viability. When planning for developments, PAL considers the suitability of the proposed development to surrounding uses, traffic generation, aviation impacts, environmental impacts as well as benefit to the local and state economy. The timing and scope of any future commercial developments at Parafield Airport are subject to a range of factors, including airport requirements, business viability, market demand and economic conditions.



# Managing aircraft noise

Parafield Airport operates 24 hour per day, 7 days per week, and is regarded as South Australia's premier general aviation airport and a world standard international pilot training airport. Noise is an unavoidable by-product of aircraft operations.

In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an average of 738 flights per day and 965 flights on a busy day. In 2022 there was an average of 600 flights per day and 831 flights on a busy day. The majority of flights occur between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The Master Plan 2024 outlines current and future aircraft noise exposure of areas surrounding Parafield Airport and details the airport's approach to aircraft noise management. Parafield Airport Limited (PAL) works with all levels of government, aircraft operators and the community to ensure measures are in place to manage aircraft noise.

Parafield Airport introduced its 'Fly Friendly' program in 2012 to manage aircraft noise exposure and its impact on the surrounding community. Aircraft operators are encouraged to adopt the Fly Friendly program when conducting training activities. Circuit training, which is repetitive touch-down and take-off operations for pilot training purposes, is restricted to 7.00am to 11.00pm Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 9.00pm on Saturday, and 8.30am to 9.00pm on Sunday. Circuit training is not permitted on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, or before 9.00am on Anzac Day.

The Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) system is the aircraft noise exposure forecasting system currently adopted in Australia for land use planning. The ANEF system provides a scientific measure of noise exposure from aircraft operations and is used to provide guidance on the siting and construction of various types of development around an airport. A new ANEF that considers the operations of Parafield Airport to 2043 has been prepared for the Master Plan 2024.

When considering the forecast noise characteristics (2043 ANEF) against the current noise characteristics (2022 ANEF), the noise footprint expands slightly in all directions. This is also the case when comparing the 2037 ANEF and the new ANEF 2043, which has resulted in a reduction in areas located within the ANEF 20 contour to the north and south of the airport, while there is an expansion in areas located within this contour to the east and west. The changes arising through the 2043 ANEF is not the result of any significant change in the way aircraft will operate at Parafield. Rather, it is a results of more accurate modelling of current and future aircraft movements using improved data and through the use of new mandatory noise modelling software in the form of the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT).

# Have your say

PAL's approach to consultation is focused on creating robust, transparent and collaborative communications, using creative, innovative and engaging techniques to interact with the community.

You can find out more about the Parafield Airport Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2024 by:

- Viewing a copy of the Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2024
  - Online at [parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan](https://parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan)
  - At the Parafield Airport Management Centre, Building 18, Tigermoth Lane, Parafield Airport, between 8.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded)
- Attending one of our Open Days to chat with the Parafield Airport team. Visit [parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan](https://parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan) to find out when and where you can attend an Open Day
- Visiting [parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan](https://parafieldairport.com.au/masterplan) to view fact sheets and other supporting information for key topics such as aircraft noise management, safeguarding airport operations, environmental management, land use and commercial development.

Stakeholder and community feedback is an important part of the Master Plan process. The Parafield Airport Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2024 is on public exhibition from 6 January 2024 for 60 business days until COB on 4 April 2024.

PAL welcomes your feedback on the Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2024.

Public comment submissions must be received by 5.00pm, 4 April 2024. When making a submission, be sure to include your name and address, and submit your comments via:

- Email: [palmasterplan2024@aal.com.au](mailto:palmasterplan2024@aal.com.au)
- Post: Master Plan 2024 Submissions, Parafield Airport Limited, Building 18, Tigermoth Lane, Parafield Airport SA 5106

All submissions received during this period will be considered, and where possible, PAL will incorporate the issues raised prior to submitting the Draft Master Plan to the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure their consideration.



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