



Planning and Development Approach

5

5.1 Airport Vision

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.

5.2 Development Approach

The focus areas for the development and execution of this Master Plan 2024 include:

- Supporting the aviation industry
- Striving for innovative solutions
- Achieving sustainable outcomes.

These underpin the day-to-day operations of the airport and what PAL strives towards.

5.2.1 Supporting the Aviation Industry

Parafield Airport has been a pilot training base since 1927, when the Royal Aero Club of South Australia built a hangar and was loaned two aircraft for training and the Club's pageant and competition purposes.

There are a number of inherent advantages that make Parafield Airport ideal for pilot training, including:

- The flight capacity and safety afforded by Parafield Airport's parallel runway system configuration.
- Air traffic control services at Parafield Airport which enhance safety and capacity.
- Provision of, and convenient access to, a dedicated area of airspace (referred to as the Western Training Area) for initial flight training.
- Access to both controlled and uncontrolled airspace which enable students to develop the broad skills required to obtain their licence.
- Parafield Airport's proximity to surrounding aerodromes, including Adelaide Airport and RAAF Base Edinburgh.
- Easy access to the full range of navigation aids required for students to become suitably qualified.
- Moderate and generally stable weather conditions, along with long day-light hours, which maximise flight training opportunities throughout the entire year.
- Suitable airport infrastructure and surrounding area amenities for students.

Many of these advantages are not found at other airports around South Australia. In particular, Parafield Airport is the only airport in South Australia with a parallel runway system for supporting training activity, and is one of only three airports in South Australia that have Air Traffic Control services (the other airports are Adelaide and Edinburgh airports).

Over 90% of current air traffic movements at Parafield Airport are related to pilot training.

Parafield Airport is home to a range of aviation training providers, including Adelaide Aviation, Command Flight Training, Enzo Flying School, Flight Training Adelaide (FTA), Helistar Aviation, Parafield Flying Centre, Aerostar and University of SA Aviation Academy.

FTA partners with the University of South Australia to carry out flight training for students as part of the Graduate Diploma in Aviation, as well as international airlines including Qantas, Virgin, Cathay Pacific, IndiGo (India), China Airlines, Starlux (Taiwan), Sky Airline, Skymark Airlines (Japan) and J-Air (Japan). There are many senior managers at these airlines that completed their pilot's training at Parafield Airport. FTA also provides training for Cobham special mission services (border surveillance and search and rescue operations), as well as helicopter pilot training.

FTA is a legacy South Australian company that has called Parafield home since it was established in 1982. It has since grown to become a global brand in flight training and has trained in excess of 8,000 pilots from every continent in the world. FTA provides board and lodging for up to 300 students at a time, who all call Parafield Airport home for 12 months during their training and are active contributors to the local community, and employs nearly 180 staff.

On six separate occasions, FTA has won the State award of Training Exporter of the Year, and was also awarded the title of National Training Exporter of the Year in 2007.

Aerostar Aviation partners with TAFE Queensland to offer a Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence – Aeroplane) and with the Central Queensland University to offer a Graduate Diploma of Aviation.

As air travel recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and returns to strong growth, the worldwide aviation industry faces significant challenges in meeting the demand for pilots. Recent global aviation outlooks indicate that over 600,000 additional commercial airline pilots will be needed by 2041, with 41 per cent of these required for countries in Asia and Oceania. This is discussed further in Section 6.

The minimum flying hours required to obtain a pilot's licence is prescribed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and ranges from a minimum of 25 hours for a recreational pilot licence to 200 flying hours for a commercial pilot licence. PAL works with the flying schools, other aircraft operators and Airservices Australia to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the airfield so that student pilots can undertake the required flying hours and access the training circuit for 'touch and go' training (repetitive touch-down and take-off operations) in both daylight and night time hours.

The Parafield Airport Pilot Scholarship program, which annually supported two local northern Adelaide students to obtain their Commercial Pilot Licence, commenced in 2013. The program was suspended in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, and an alternate skills-based aviation traineeship program is being introduced in 2024.

5.2.2 Striving for Innovative Solutions

Technologies and other innovations will improve and optimise operations for both PAL and its tenants, both aeronautical and commercial.

The development and implementation of this Master Plan is not just about building infrastructure, but also about thinking innovatively to deliver solutions that are right for Parafield Airport's customers.

Technologies that may be considered in the future include:

- Accommodation of infrastructure to support the transition to electric aircraft.
- Support for emerging advanced air mobility technologies, such as electronic vertical take-off and landing vehicles and other crewed, uncrewed or automated aircraft that move people and cargo.
- Support for contemporary air navigation and air traffic management technology to reduce disruptions and improve usability of the airport.

Innovation is also applied to PAL's commercial endeavours. PAL continues to work with current and potential tenants to integrate innovative developments across the airport estate. This approach is focused on finding the solution for the context and situation, and not just new technology.

Record Breaking Electric Flight

In 2021, South Australian company Eyre to There Aviation flew Australia's first electric aircraft around South Australia and in doing so, set a number of new world records for flight by electric aircraft. Departing from Parafield Airport and concluding at Adelaide Airport, the Eyre to There Aviation team set:

- **The world endurance record**
- **The record for over-water flight**
- **The record for longest distance flown in a 24-hour period**
- **The record for fastest speed between two points.**

5.2.3 Achieving Sustainable Outcomes

Sustainability is at the core of the way PAL does business. PAL is a sector leader in global airport sustainability and is committed to sustainable business practices to ensure a healthy and safe environment for its employees, aviation partners, tenants and the community.

This commitment to sustainability is reflected in Adelaide Airport Limited's (PAL's parent company) decision to secure Sustainability Performance Linked Loans – the first of its kind in Australia. These loans incentivise the borrower to further improve its performance against a set of environmental, social and governance criteria.

Supporting this is PAL's Sustainability Policy and Corporate Sustainability Strategy which form the foundation for the airport's sustainability journey. Together, they provide a documented commitment to sustainability that is core to business planning, developments and operations.

The PAL Sustainability Policy outlines the following objectives:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development and sustainable business practices into our planning, design, construction and procurement.
- Apply a stewardship approach throughout our supply chain by encouraging and facilitating the adoption of sustainability principles and practices by our customers, partners, tenants, contractors and suppliers.
- Minimise the environmental impact of our operations through a program of continuous improvement, always striving for innovative solutions to meet our goals.
- Measure, reduce and manage our carbon emissions on an ongoing basis with a strong focus on energy and fuel efficiency.
- Optimise community outcomes by engaging with and supporting our local community in a positive and constructive manner and being a valued member of the community.
- Ensure we provide a positive and safe work environment, where individuals are valued and equipped with the skills to effectively carry out their work.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory and other requirements.

Further information on PAL's approach to sustainability is provided on the Parafield Airport website, parafieldairport.com.au

To ensure PAL remains on-track, it has adopted the principles and concepts of applicable reporting frameworks which bring greater cohesion and efficiency to the reporting process through an integrated thinking approach and focus on creating value over time.

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 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 as detailed in Section 5.2.1.

5.3 Development Objectives

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.



Figure 5.1 Development Objectives

5.4 Consultation and Engagement

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

PAL's consultation is guided by the Commonwealth's Airport Development Consultation Guidelines. These guidelines note that the conduct of an effective consultation program does not necessarily mean that all interested parties will be satisfied with the outcome, but is about ensuring that a proposal has been fully explored, concerns identified and alternatives considered.

PAL continues to engage with Commonwealth, South Australian and local government authorities, aviation operators, airport tenants and the local community through a range of committees and forums. This currently includes the following.

5.4.1 Parafield Airport Consultative Committee

The Parafield Airport Consultative Committee (PACC) was established in May 1998 and meets regularly to discuss airport and aviation issues affecting the community, local areas and the state.

The Commonwealth government has published guidelines for establishing and running consultative groups at leased federal airports. The intended role of these groups, which includes the PACC, is:

- To enable airport operators, residents affected by airport operations, local authorities, airport users, and other interested parties to exchange information on issues relating to airport operations and their impacts.
- To allow matters to be raised and taken into account by the airport operator, with a genuine desire to resolve issues that may emerge.
- To complement and support the consultative requirements already established for master plans and major development plans.
- To discuss and share information between the airport and the communities affected by its operations and plans.

The PACC Terms of Reference describes the functions of the PACC, including providing an advisory forum for the exchange of views on airport matters between various parties, including the local community and monitoring aircraft noise and noise abatement related matters. The Terms of Reference also provides information for local resident interest groups and associations seeking to become a member of the PACC.

Membership includes Commonwealth, state and local government authorities, aviation operators, airport tenants and community representatives. PACC meeting minutes and the Terms of Reference are published on the Parafield Airport website, parafieldairport.com.au

5.4.2 Parafield Airport Technical Working Group

The Parafield Airport Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed in 2010. This group works as a subgroup of the PACC and is responsible for technical aviation advice to the PACC.

The TWG is typically comprised of airport management and operations staff, general aviation operators, flight training schools, maintenance organisations and other aviation-related businesses operating from Parafield Airport. Representatives from Airservices Australia, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) are also invited to attend.

The terms of reference for the TWG include:

- Consider flight paths, airspace and runway usage to manage aircraft noise impacts on surrounding communities consistent with the Parafield Airport Fly Neighbourly program.
- Provide a forum to discuss efficiencies and legislative changes relating to flight paths, training circuits, airspace, runway usage, and airport operational hours.
- Review the Fly Neighbourly program.
- Review aircraft noise complaint information.
- Review current proposed changes to airport aviation facilities and infrastructure.
- Review aircraft engine ground running operations.
- Participate in airport master planning.

5.4.3 Parafield Airport Planning Coordination Forum

PAL has established a Planning Coordination Forum (PCF) to develop ongoing strategic partnerships between the airport and the Commonwealth, state and relevant local governments.

Regular meetings of the PCF are held to exchange information on airport planning, development and operations, and the implications for Parafield Airport of development in the surrounding areas. The PCF considers such issues as:

- Consistency of on-airport land planning schemes with relevant urban and regional planning schemes

- The steps being taken to develop or implement the Parafield Airport Master Plan, development projects and significant initiatives.
- Airport ground transport issues including connections to off-airport transport networks, public transport and other road issues.
- Environmental issues arising from airport development and operations.
- On-airport commercial developments and their off-airport interrelationships.
- Operation of the airport and potential effects on the local community, including aircraft noise.
- Land use planning and development issues in the vicinity of Parafield Airport, including planning measures to safeguard airport operations.
- Government briefings on regulatory and policy developments.

5.4.4 Master Plan Consultation

This Master Plan 2024 has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. Throughout this process, PAL has considered the feedback received and, where possible, sought to address the concerns and issues raised.

5.4.4.1 Development of the Master Plan

PAL has undertaken extensive consultation for the preparation of this Master Plan 2024. This includes:

- The regular PCF and PACC meetings which provide extensive feedback on airport planning considerations.
- Briefings with relevant state government agencies, local government, aviation industry stakeholders and consultation groups.
- Release of an exposure draft version of the Master Plan to key stakeholders including DITRDCA, the SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Airservices, and CASA.

5.4.4.2 Release of the Preliminary Draft Master Plan for Public Comment

As required by Section 79 of the Airports Act, the Preliminary Draft Master Plan was made available for public comment for a period of 60 business days.

Access to the Preliminary Draft Master Plan for public comment was advised and provided through:

- Publishing a newspaper notice inviting members of the public to provide written comments.

- Making copies of Master Plan 2024 available for inspection and purchase at Parafield and Adelaide airports.
- Providing an electronic copy for viewing and download on the Parafield Airport website, parafieldairport.com.au/community/publications/parafield-airport-master-plan
- Making copies available for inspection at surrounding local government authorities.

In accordance with the Airports Act, prior to the Master Plan being advertised for public comment, PAL advised the following persons of its intention to give the Commonwealth Minister a Draft Master Plan:

- The South Australian Minister with responsibility for town planning or use of land
- The South Australian authority responsibility for town planning or use of land
- Each local Council with responsibility for an area surrounding the airport.

To support the release of the Preliminary Draft Master Plan for public comment, PAL undertook the following activities:

- Face-to-face engagement activities.
- Digital engagement through social media.
- Information on the Parafield Airport website.
- Provision of supporting information covering key matters such as aircraft noise management, safeguarding airport operations, land use, commercial development, and the environment.
- Briefings to key stakeholders and community groups
- Copies of Master Plan 2024 made available in hard copy and electronic format.

5.4.4.3 Submission of the Draft Master Plan to the Commonwealth Minister

As required by the Airports Act, the submission of the Draft Master Plan to the Commonwealth Minister was accompanied by the following materials:

- A copy of each written comment received during the public comment period
- A written certificate signed on behalf of Parafield Airport, containing:
 - A list of names of the people or organisations that provided written comments to the Preliminary Draft Master Plan
 - A summary of the comments received
 - Evidence that Parafield Airport has given due regard to those comments.

5.4.4.4 Publication of the Final Master Plan

In accordance with Section 86 of the Airports Act, following approval of the Master Plan by the Commonwealth Minister, PAL will:

- Publish a newspaper notice advising that the Parafield Airport Master Plan 2024 has been approved.
- Make copies of the approved Master Plan 2024 available for inspection and purchase at Parafield Airport.
- Provide an electronic copy of the approved Master Plan for viewing and download on the Parafield Airport website, parafieldairport.com.au/community/publications/parafield-airport-master-plan

