

STORMWATER

A D E L A I D E A I R P O R T L I M I T E D

STORMWATER

Water management, including stormwater, has always been a priority to Adelaide Airport Ltd (AAL), guided by the commitments listed in the Adelaide Airport Environment Strategy 2004. However, water has become an even more critical issue for AAL, and all of South Australia, concerning Australia's increasing vulnerability to drought due to climate change. For this reason, AAL is developing a Water Strategy for the entire airport site which considers potable water, recycled water and stormwater.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Any rain that falls on roofs or collects on paved areas like driveways, roads or footpaths is called stormwater. Stormwater carries with it a wide range of pollutants, including sediment, oil, hydrocarbons and leaves, which are a major cause of pollution in our rivers, creeks, lakes and Gulf.

WHERE DOES STORMWATER GO?

Stormwater makes its way to Gulf St. Vincent through various drains around the city or is caught by different stormwater harvesting methods such as rainwater tanks or Aquifer, Storage and Recovery (ASR) schemes. Because much of the stormwater eventually reaches the Gulf and its marine ecosystems, pollution control is vital.

WHAT IS ADELAIDE AIRPORT LTD DOING TO REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- Gross pollutant traps – during the building approval process new developments are required to have a gross pollutant trap installed to ensure that pollutants are prevented from entering the stormwater system.
- Gross pollutant traps are already in place under T1, the T1 carpark, Export Park, AQIS, IKEA, Harbourtown, Burbridge Business Park, and Airport East.
- Stormwater is regularly monitored for potential pollutants.
- AAL regularly audits all major tenants and construction sites to assess pollution risks to stormwater.
- AAL informs all tenants of the cause and effect of multiple actions that could pose pollution risks to stormwater.
- AAL has emergency and spill response plans in place to reduce the risk of pollution resulting from a fuel or chemical spill or an aircraft accident.
- AAL actively maintains the Patawalonga Creek conservation area, which flows from the Cowandilla-Mile End drain.



www.aal.com.au



WHAT STORMWATER DRAINS RUN THROUGH THE AIRPORT?

The airport has three drains running through it.

1. Cowandilla-Mile End Drain – on airport's northern and western boundary and maintained by the City of West Torrens.
2. Keswick-Brownhill Creek Drain – on airport's southern and eastern boundary maintained by SA Water.
3. Airport Drain – located entirely within AAL land and southern part of Tapleys Hill Rd. and maintained by AAL.

WHAT'S THE AVERAGE ANNUAL FLOW THROUGH EACH DRAIN?

1. Cowandilla-Mile End – 2,000 ML per year
2. Keswick-Brownhill Creek – 7,000 ML per year
3. Airport – 20 ML per year

WHERE DOES AIRPORT STORMWATER END UP?

Stormwater from all three drains ends up in the Patawalonga Lake where it is released to the Gulf through either the Barcoo Outlet or the Patawalonga weir. (see photo on page 1)

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR AAL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

AAL is currently investigating the potential for the capture and reuse of stormwater throughout the airport site. One such possibility is the capture of all stormwater run-off from the T1 building roof.

© Ricky Sullivan

