

# A GREENER AIRPORT

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



Adelaide Airport is the major gateway to South Australia. Close to 7 million passengers fly in and out of the airport each year as at 2008-09, and a further 14 million people visit the airport, usually to either greet or farewell passengers.

In addition, more than 5,200 people are directly employed within the airport, making it South Australia's largest single site employment precinct.

As a result of its activities, Adelaide Airport Ltd (AAL) is very conscious of the impact it has on the natural environment.

Adelaide Airport encourages airport users, from the airlines, to security and freight contractors to store operators, to think about the environment at all times.

AAL also has its own dedicated environment team to monitor its activities and find ways to reduce its environmental footprint.

Following are just some of the ways in which AAL is looking to improve its level of sustainability.

## **BUILDINGS**

While the Adelaide Airport terminal and other buildings around the airport create jobs for South Australians, they also affect the environment by consuming energy and water resources, and creating waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Adelaide Airport Limited encourages companies operating within the airport to reduce their environmental impact wherever possible, through regular audits and education.

The roof of the main terminal was recently installed with one of Australia's largest solar systems – the power from which is fed into the electricity supply for the building's operation.

AAL monitors the amount of electricity consumed and works towards reducing this by retro fitting areas with energy efficient lighting, improving building management and purchasing electricity from renewable resources, which will service to reduce our carbon footprint.

[www.aal.com.au](http://www.aal.com.au)





### CLIMATE CHANGE

Adelaide Airport Limited is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. It is looking at ways to achieve this that may include purchasing or generating renewable energy and purchasing 'carbon credits' to offset greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the airport's activities. Airport users, such as airlines and retail tenants, are also encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint.

### WATER

South Australia is recognised as the driest state on the driest continent, and therefore water is its precious resource.

About 60 per cent of water used at Adelaide Airport is recycled water, which is pumped from the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant through an underground pipe to the airport. The amount of recycled water used by the airport each year is more than 47,500 kilolitres, which would fill about 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

At Adelaide Airport, recycled water is used in the toilets in the airport terminal and for the irrigation of its garden beds, which significantly reduces the airport's reliance on Adelaide's water supply.

To reduce stormwater pollution from Adelaide Airport, traps for gross pollutants are installed in a number of locations. These traps catch sediment and leaves and prevent such material from entering the sea.

The airport is also examining ways to capture and re-use stormwater by storing it underground in an aquifer, and to further increase the use of recycled water.

### NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Adelaide Airport is located within the Patawalonga catchment. The area was once wetlands known as The Reedbeds, which stretched from Glenelg to the Port River and inland to Torrensville, and drained into the Patawalonga.

This part of the creek was once earmarked for a third runway but has been protected by Adelaide Airport Limited.

It is home to a variety of native plants, including remnant Swamp Paperbark Trees, which are a salt-tolerant species of trees and serve as a reminder that the Patawalonga Creek was once flushed by sea tides.

The grasslands surrounding the Swamp Paperbarks provide a valuable habitat for native invertebrates, fish, frogs, turtles, reptiles, birds and mammals.

AAL invests substantial resources in restoration and rehabilitation of this unique habitat.

### NOISE

Aircraft can significantly increase noise levels for people who live in the flight path or close to an airport.

While the noise of engines as aircraft prepare for take-off or when they land is considerable, activities conducted on the tarmac also generate noise. These activities including testing aircraft engines, freight operations, vehicles and construction work.

Regular surveys of noise levels from stationary activities at Adelaide Airport has found the airport is operating within the boundaries set by Government.

This is particularly important because Adelaide Airport is located close to houses, with some homes built adjacent airport's eastern and northern boundary.

### WASTE

The waste generated at Adelaide Airport comes from several sources. Companies based within the airport generate waste such as paper, cardboard, packaging, printer cartridges, batteries, electronics and food waste.

Adelaide Airport Limited recycles paper and cardboard, printer cartridges, waste oil, batteries, drink containers, construction waste and green waste. AAL also is working to increase the re-use or recycling of waste generated by passengers within the terminal.

For more information, please contact AAL on (08) 8308 9211 or email [airport@aal.com.au](mailto:airport@aal.com.au)