

# Guideline

# General Waste Management

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## What is general waste?

General waste at Adelaide and Parafield Airports is mixed waste comprised of anything that is no longer required and discarded of in a bin. This includes food waste (e.g. organic), beverage containers, paper and cardboard, packaging plastics and green waste.

Note that Trade Waste (that is waste generated from commercial and industrial activities) are dealt with in the Guideline for Trade Waste Management at Adelaide and Parafield Airports. What is the issue with general waste?

There are several waste issues that need to be managed:

- Some wastes are now banned from landfill and are legally required to be recycled
- The incorrect disposal of waste to landfill has adverse impacts on the environment
- Food or food packaging waste can attract birds and wildlife which are potential hazards to aviation.

In South Australia, wastes are progressively being banned from going to landfill. See the EPA website for more information on which wastes must be recycled ([www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)). Reducing waste

Most types of general waste that is currently disposed to landfill can actually become a resource - if segregated correctly, it can be recycled, composted or reused.

The following strategies are suggestions for reducing waste:

- Use disposable items that are made from 100% biodegradable and compostable materials
- Use ceramic or reusable cups and plates
- Purchase recycled products (e.g. paper, toilet paper)
- Reduce packaging
- Manage documents using an electronic filing system rather than a paper based one, where possible.

Encourage the collection of beverage containers and return to a recycling depot by using the refunds for staff initiatives (e.g. social club activities).

## Waste Management Hierarchy



The best outcomes are achieved when waste management programs focus on the higher end of the hierarchy. Avoiding the generation of waste in the first place is the most preferable management option (i.e. by using reusable cups instead of disposable ones). However, reducing and recycling waste are far more preferable to disposing of waste to landfill.

## Terminal 1 (Adelaide)

Terminal 1 offers separate recycling facilities for the following in one container:

- Paper and cardboard
- Beverage containers
- Glass
- Aerosol cans
- Plastic containers
- Food tins
- Soft plastics.



## Other Tenants (Adelaide and Parafield)

Businesses should segregate waste, or if space is an issue, engage a contractor who will sort these at a facility off site.

Some businesses are entitled to a 240L yellow lidded, mixed recycling wheelie bin from either the City of Salisbury (Parafield Airport) or the City of West Torrens (Adelaide Airport). This can be used for general mixed recycling which is appropriate for the typical wastes generated from a workplace kitchen or lunch room.

If larger volumes of waste are generated then additional bins need to be obtained from a waste contractor.

## AAL / PAL Management Centres

The Adelaide Airport Ltd and Parafield Airport Ltd Management Centres have recycling stations that accept co-mingled waste, paper and cardboard, and food waste. Other recycling streams include printer cartridges, waste oil, batteries, drink containers, scrap metal, construction waste and green waste.

## Food waste

Uncontrolled storage and disposal of food waste can attract birds. Birds are a hazard to aviation, causing damage to aircraft and potentially the loss of human life.

Airports have a legal responsibility under the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 to manage the risks associated with bird strike and the generation of food waste needs to be strictly controlled.

Airport businesses are therefore to take all reasonable and practicable measures to avoid attracting birds when handling, storing and disposing of food waste. The most effective measure to avoid attracting birds is to place food waste in closed or sealed bins that cannot be tipped over.



## Case study

### FTA Working with Jeffries to Compost Food Waste

Flight Training Adelaide (FTA) is located at Parafield Airport, South Australia. The college started operations in 1982, offering aviation training solutions for the fixed wing and rotary wing industry.

Training over 200 cadets at any given time, FTA offers three meals daily between the hours of 06:00 – 23:00 with 5 to 6 alternate dishes per sitting. That makes for a lot of food scraps coming from the mess hall, and accordingly, a great opportunity for FTA to participate in food organics recycling.

It's estimated that approximately 8.67 t of food waste per month is generated from such a busy mess hall.

By joining with local composting company Jeffries, to divert this food waste from landfill, it has been projected to be the equivalent to removing 12 cars from the road annually. The cost of removal has also lead to savings of around \$200-\$300 per month.

## Waste management plans

Tenants are encouraged to develop Waste Management Plans (WMP), especially if their activities present a high risk of attracting wildlife. The WMP must specify the various waste streams and strategies for management, with the aim of reducing foreign object debris and the likelihood of attracting wildlife to the airport.

A WMP template is available to assist tenants. The WMP will be subject to regular audit.

## Further information

- Aerodrome Manual SOP – Wildlife Hazard Management
- Adelaide Airport Limited – Waste Management Plan Template (for tenants generating food waste that may attract birds)
- [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

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Adelaide Airport Limited  
1 James Schofield Drive  
Adelaide Airport  
South Australia 5950

T +61 8 8308 9211  
F +61 8 8308 9311  
Email: [airport@aal.com.au](mailto:airport@aal.com.au)

Parafield Airport Limited  
Building 18, Tigermoth Lane,  
Parafield Airport 5106

