

# Guidelines for Noise Management at Adelaide and Parafield Airports

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## What is the issue with noise?

Adelaide and Parafield Airport's close proximity to residents means that everyone operating on the airport has a critical role to play in minimising noise impacts from ground based activities, especially during night time hours.

## What are the major sources of noise?

Noise at Adelaide and Parafield Airports is categorised as either ground-based or aircraft-related. Aircraft-related noise from taxiing, taking off and landing is regulated by the Commonwealth through the *Air Navigation (Aircraft Noise) Regulations 1994* and is not covered in this guideline. The major contributors to ground-based noise include:

- Aircraft ground-running (engine testing)
- Parked aircraft with operating engines
- Operation of an auxiliary power unit of an aircraft
- Freight operations
- Ground vehicles
- Plant and equipment
- Construction activities



## What are my responsibilities as a tenant or contractor?

Tenants and contractors are to ensure that they take all practicable and reasonable steps to limit any noise impact on neighbours from their activities. Noise can be reduced by:

- Shielding, enclosing, and muffling equipment
- Equipment retrofits
- Substituting equipment for a less noisy option (eg. quackers in lieu of reversing beepers on forklifts)
- Regularly servicing equipment to ensure good operating order
- Only using equipment that is necessary to get the job completed
- Avoiding or limiting the use of public address systems, extension telephone bells or radios, particularly during night time hours
- Amending operational times where practicable
- Staff awareness training.

The *Airports (Environmental Protection) Regulations 1997* define acceptable noise levels at different times of the day. Acceptable noise emission levels are lower between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am than for other times of the day.

Aircraft undertaking ground running activities need to refer to Adelaide Airport and Parafield Airport Ground Running Policy which provides information on where and when ground running can be undertaken.

Ground based noise emissions from day to day operations are controlled through the implementation of Environment Management Plans (EMPs). AAL and PAL monitor the implementation of EMPs and are responsible for following up on noise complaints. Regular boundary noise monitoring is also undertaken at each airport.

Noise emissions from construction activities are controlled through Construction Environmental Management Plans and are monitored through a program of regular site inspections. When particularly noisy activities are being undertaken, it is appropriate to inform neighbours (e.g. residents, tenants) in advance.

## What about aircraft noise?

A curfew for regular passenger transport is in place at Adelaide Airport between 11:00pm and 6:00am. The *Adelaide Airport Curfew Act 2000* details a limited number of flights that are permitted to operate during this time including Royal Flying Doctor Service, freight aircraft and helicopter operations.

Parafield Airport is open 24 hours per day 365 days of the year. A voluntary agreement is in place limiting circuit training times. These times are published in the *Parafield Airport Community Information* brochure found at [www.parafieldairport.com.au](http://www.parafieldairport.com.au).

Aircraft noise complaints associated with aircraft taxiing, taking off, landing and overflights are handled by AirServices Australia via the Noise Complaints and Information Service which can be reached on 1800 802 584 (free call). Further information can be found on the AirServices Australia website [www.airservicesaustralia.com](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com).

An Aircraft Noise Ombudsmen provides independent oversight of how AirServices Australia deals with aircraft-related noise complaints and enquiries. More information can be found at [www.ano.gov.au](http://www.ano.gov.au).



## Case study

### Examples of noise management at Adelaide Airport

The runway resurfacing project completed by AAL in 2011 is perhaps one of the best examples of noise management at Adelaide Airport. All of the work in the six-month period of the project had to be carried out during the hours of 11:00pm and 6:00am. In addition to consultation with the local community, AAL took extra measures to minimise noise disruption to nearby residents. These included:

- Constructing a temporary asphalt batching plant to reduce heavy vehicle traffic in and out of the Airport during the night operations
- Erecting a 3 metre high concrete wall as a sound barrier around plant
- Conducting noise modelling and monitoring
- Designing the batching plant to minimise the need for vehicles to reverse and therefore limiting the use of beepers.
- No noise complaints were received from nearby residents for the duration of the project.

## Further information

- Adelaide Airport Ground Running Policy
- Parafield Airport Ground Running Policy
- Parafield Airport Community Information Brochure
- *Adelaide Airport Curfew Act 2000*
- *Airports Act 1996*
- *Airports (Environmental Protection) Regulations 1997*
- *Air Navigation (Aircraft Noise) Regulations 1994*.

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