

# Guideline

## Bird Strike Risks for Racing Pigeon Owners

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## For racing pigeon owners

Bird strikes have the potential to cause millions of dollars damage to aircraft, as well as contributing to airline costs due to aircraft unavailability during repair. Damage to aircraft can also lead to aircraft crashes and ultimately lead to the loss of human life. It is also important to note the loss of the bird's life as a result of a strike.

Airports have a legal responsibility under the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 to reduce the risks associated with bird strike. Adelaide Airport Limited has put in place management strategies to ensure airport operations are conducted safely and hazards are reduced. To meet its responsibilities Wildlife Hazard Management Plans have been developed and implemented at both Adelaide and Parafield airports, which puts in place procedures and management activities to address hazards associated with all wildlife, including birds.



## Peak traffic times

Parafield - does not have a significant peak traffic time as movements occur any time of the day, however the period from sunrise to 7am is considered to be a generally quiet period in comparison to normal activity.

Adelaide - the peak traffic times at Adelaide are 6-7am, 10am - 12:30pm and 3:30 - 7:30pm.

## How can you minimise the risk of bird strike?

- If located close to another pigeon loft, coordinate with other members to stagger release of pigeons
- Only one release per day
- Parafield - release pigeons between sunrise and 7am
- Adelaide - release pigeons between 7am and 10am or between 12:30 and 3:30pm.

## What will happen if a racing pigeon is struck?

In any event where a bird strike involves a racing pigeon, the SAHPA will be contacted by airport staff relaying details from the yellow tag.

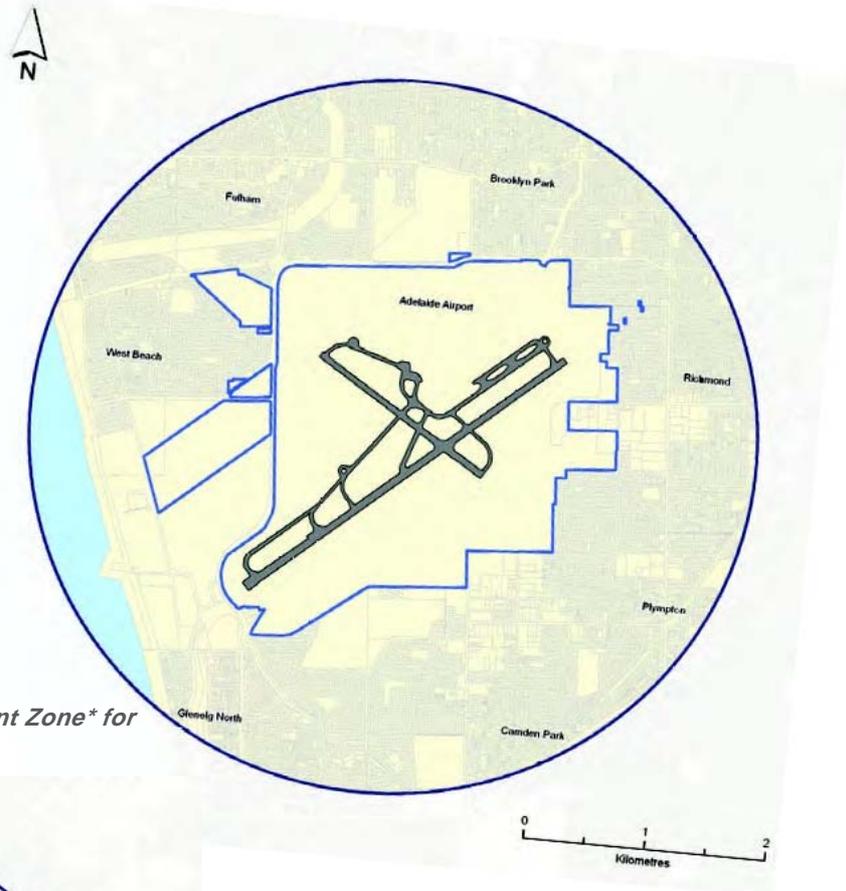


## Areas of highest risk

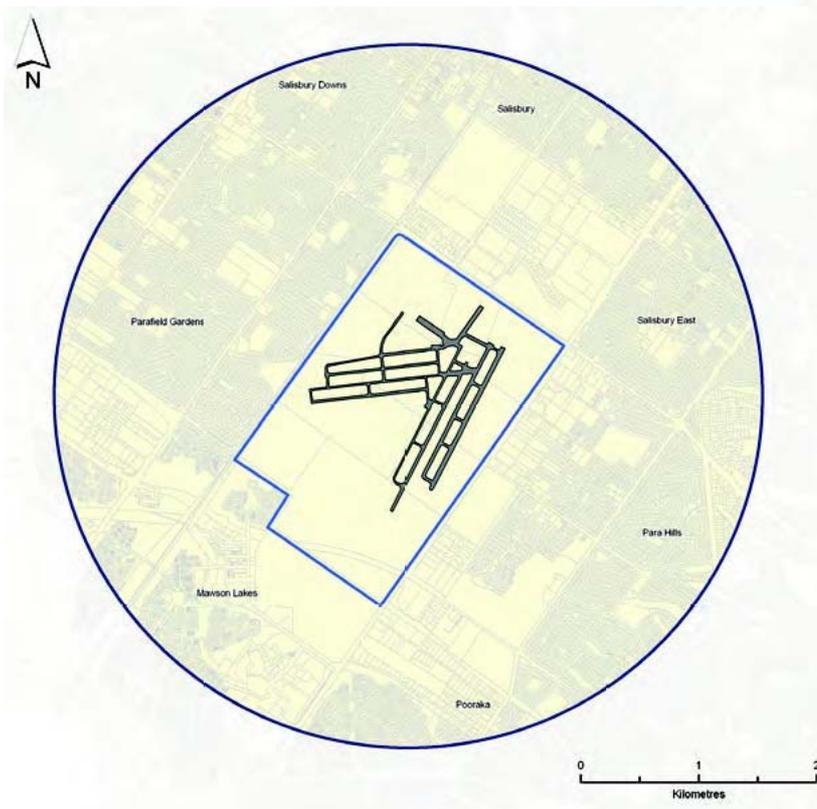
Bird strikes are more likely to occur in the areas surrounding either end of the runways within a radius of 3km of the airfield. Pigeons are attracted to airports as a source of food, nesting sites and a water source (ATSB 2004).

## Bird strike risks surrounding airports

An overview of the general and racing pigeon specific bird strike risks at the Adelaide and Parafield Airports.



**Fig 1. Wildlife Risk Management Zone\* for Adelaide Airport**



**Fig 2. Wildlife Risk Management Zone\* for Parafield Airport**

\*Wildlife Risk Management Zone refers to the area of higher bird strike risk (3km radius) around an airport, highlighted to aid collaborative management of wildlife risks between AAL/PAL and neighbouring land managers. This initiative was endorsed by the South Australian Government, who have incorporated a 'Building Near Airfields' policy module which councils must address when revising their local development plans under the Better Development Plan Program.

Reference: ATSB Bird Information Fact Sheet No. 8 - Rock Dove (Pigeon) - available at [http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2004/pdf/08\\_rock-dove.pdf](http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2004/pdf/08_rock-dove.pdf)

## Contacts for Adelaide and Parafield Airports

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