

Safety Bulletin

Date Issued:	23 December 2015	Issued by:	Safety Management Committee Local Runway Safety Team Archerfield Airport Corporation
Bulletin No.	1	Authorised by:	Heather Mattes General Manager Archerfield Airport Corporation

Airside Taxiing

Recently, there have been a few near misses at Archerfield Airport as a result of aircraft taxiing too fast, using the incorrect taxiway, lack of situational awareness and poor communication. These issues are unsafe and can result in an accident and damage to person and/or property.

To mitigate the risk of a taxiing accident the following tips are offered:

- Plan your taxi – ensure you have correct aerodrome charts, ERSAs and check NOTAMS;
- Ensure you understand aerodrome markings, signs and lights;
- Minimise ‘heads-down’ activities while the aircraft is moving
- Resist the pressure to take short cuts;
- Listen and comply with ATC instructions and clearances;
- Obtain a clearance to enter, cross, backtrack and taxi on any runway, including runway undershoots (where marked);
- Before entering a runway, always look out for other aircraft or vehicles on, or approaching the runway;
- Be aware of “blind spots”, intersections, building corners and taxi lane entrances
- www.airservicesaustralia.com/flightbriefing/pilot-and-airside-safety/runway-safety/

There is a general view that safe taxi speed is akin to a brisk walk however taxi speed will depend on the situation. Taxiing on a congested apron compared with taxiing along a taxiway to the threshold are quite different scenarios. A brisk walking speed may be appropriate for a congested apron however it would slow ground traffic down if the same rule was applied to the taxiways. It might take forever to get from the apron to the holding point! It is difficult to set any rule for a safe taxiing speed. What is safe under some conditions may be hazardous under others. The primary requirement of safe taxiing is safe positive control under the prevailing weather conditions and the ability to stop or turn where and when desired. Normally, the speed should be at the rate where movement of the airplane is dependent on the throttle; that is, slow enough so when the throttle is closed the airplane can be stopped promptly.

Since an aircraft must be moved under its own power, the pilot must thoroughly understand taxiing procedures, be alert and visually check the location and movements of everything else along the taxi path including wind speed and direction. An awareness of other aircraft taking off, landing, or taxiing and consideration for the right of way of others is essential to safety. To really observe the entire area, the pilot's eyes must cover almost a complete circle. While taxiing, the pilot must be sure the wings will clear all obstructions and other aircraft.

Safe Landings