

Brisbane bound Virgin Australia flight hit 'wake turbulence' from another plane near Bali in Indonesia



Safety watchdog investigating serious incident of Virgin Australia flight in wake turbulence with another plane near Bali.

AUSTRALIA'S air safety watchdog is investigating a serious incident in which a Brisbane-bound Virgin Australia flight hit "wake turbulence" from another plane near Bali earlier this month.

Boeing 737-800 from Denpasar to Brisbane was around 258km south-east of Bali when the incident occurred on September 14.

It encountered the turbulence from an Airbus A380 flying in the opposite direction about half an hour after the flight had taken off.

It is believed the other plane was an Emirates flight from Sydney to Dubai, however the Australian Transport Safety Bureau could not confirm this.

Wake turbulence forms behind a plane as it passes through the air and includes wingtip vortices and jetwash, or rapidly moving gases expelled from a jet engine.

There have been several reported incidents where it is believed wake turbulence has been a contributing factor in plane crashes.

A Virgin Australia spokesman said there were no injuries to passengers or crew and the airline was cooperating with the ATSB to determine the full circumstances surrounding the event.

"Our flight crew were following air traffic control instructions at all times and responded immediately using standard operating procedures to ensure the safety of passengers and crew," he said.

The ATSB report is expected to be completed in December.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/travel/news/brisbane-bound-virgin-australia-flight-hit-wake-turbulence-from-another-plane-near-bali-in-indonesia/story-e6frg8ro-1226482666542>