Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199502145

Airbus A320 Boeing Co B747

07 July 1995

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number:	199502145	Occurrence Type:	Incident		
Location:	74km W Adelaid	e, VOR			
State:	SA	Inv Category:	4		
Date:	Friday 07 July 19	95			
Time:	2023 hours	Time Zone	CST		
Highest Injury Level:	None				
Aircraft Manufacturer:	Boeing Co				
Aircraft Model	747-338				
Aircraft Registration:	VH-EBX			Serial Number:	23688
Type of Operation:	Air Transport Scheduled	High Capacity International	Passenger		
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil				
Departure Point:	Perth WA				
Departure Time:					
Destination:	Sydney NSW				
Aircraft Manufacturer:	Airbus				
Aircraft Model:	A320-211				
Aircraft Registration:	VH-HYG			Serial Number:	029
Type of Operation:	Air Transport Scheduled	Domestic High Capacity Pa	assenger	inumber.	
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil				
Departure Point:	Sydney NSW				
Departure Time:	1844 CST				
Destination:	Perth WA				

Approved for Release: Tuesday, September 24, 1996

VH-EBX was tracking eastbound on air route Y44, and VH-HYG was tracking westbound on air route Q34B, both aircraft were at FL 370. These air routes diverge from Adelaide towards the west.

At approximately 75 km west of Adelaide, when the two aircraft were within 22 km of each other, with a track angle difference of 20 degrees, which was increasing as they came closer, VH-EBX experienced a traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS) traffic advisory (TA). This was followed 20 seconds later by a resolution advisory (RA).

The pilot of VH-EBX responded immediately to the RA, initiating a climb to FL 380 followed by a descent back to FL 370. Neither aircraft changed heading.

The aircraft passed with a separation of 8.5 km horizontal and 900 ft vertical.

The air traffic controller had been monitoring the situation for sometime and was confident that the aircraft would pass with at least the minimum required horizontal separation standard of 9 km.

The recommended vertical deviation following an RA should be no more than 700 ft. The pilot of VH-EBX climbed the aircraft through 1,000 ft before returning to the assigned level.