

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803641**

Douglas DC9-31

6 May 1988

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198803641
Location: Coolangatta QLD
Date: 6 May 1988
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Incident

Time: 2115

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Douglas DC9-31
Registration: VH-TJS
Serial Number: 47550
Operation Type: Regular Public Transport
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: Melbourne VIC
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Coolangatta QLD

Approved for Release: 15/06/1988

Circumstances:

Shortly after VH-TJS entered the circuit for runway 14, as number three to land behind two light aircraft, the Aerodrome Controller (ADC) commenced vectoring a Boeing 737 aircraft for descent and approach to land on the opposite direction runway 32. On short final the pilot in command of VH-TJS became aware of aircraft lights approaching from the opposite direction. Shortly afterwards the Boeing crew advised that the aircraft was on final for runway 32, and was instructed by the ADC to continue the approach. The pilot in command of VH-TJS initiated a go-around from a height of about 100 feet above the ground. The Boeing 737 was then cleared to land, and VH-TJS carried out a circuit and landing on runway 14. The pilot of VH-TJS subsequently stated that he was not told of the opposite direction traffic, and said he believed the other aircraft to be following him for a landing on runway 14. Investigation revealed that, during the vectoring process, the ADC specifically mentioned that the other aircraft was for runway 32 on three occasions. At the time VH-TJS commenced the go-around the Boeing 737 was about 4 miles (7.5 kilometres) from the end of the runway at about 1000 feet altitude. There was no breakdown in separation standards or Air Traffic Control procedures.