

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198503821**

Boeing 727-276

18 May 1985

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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: 198503821
Location: Cairns QLD
Date: 18 May 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Incident

Time: 1700

	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: Boeing 727-276
Registration: VH-TBO
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Regular Public
 Transport(Passenger)
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: Mount Isa QLD
Departure Time: 1557
Destination: Cairns QLD

Approved for Release: December 1st 1986

Circumstances:

Twenty-eight nautical miles (nm) west of Cairns the aircraft contacted Cairns Tower and was cleared down to 7600 feet. At 8 nm the aircraft was further cleared to 4400 feet and to carry out a VOR (Visual Omni Range) approach. Further communications with the aircraft alerted the Cairns Tower Controller to the fact that the aircraft was not carrying out the prescribed procedure. The controller then directed the aircraft so as to ensure clearance from terrain and other traffic. A visual approach and landing was then carried out without further difficulty. An investigation was initiated, following a report received six weeks after the event. Readout of the aircraft flight data recorder and the Tower communications recording established that the initial patterns flown were oriented North-South and similar to that required for a VOR approach at Coolangatta rather than the North East-South west configuration of the Cairns VOR pattern. Further enquiry revealed that the flight crew had anticipated carrying out a visual approach and did not become aware of the requirement for a VOR approach until a short time before the aircraft first arrived over the VOR. An incorrect Instrument Approach and Landing chart was then employed because the normal approach briefing and cross-check of charts was not carried out.