

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702917**

**Airbus
A320**

06 September 1997

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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: 199702917 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: 5km SSE Sydney, Aerodrome
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 06 September 1997
Time: 2109 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Airbus
Manufacturer:
Aircraft Model: A320-211
Aircraft Registration: VH-HYD **Serial Number:** 025

Type of Operation: Air Transport Domestic High Capacity Passenger
Scheduled
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Sydney NSW
Departure Time: 2104 EST
Destination: Adelaide SA

Approved for Release: Friday, September 12, 1997

Soon after takeoff the crew were alerted to a pitch computer fault in the aircraft. As other indications were normal the pilot elected to investigate the problem when the aircraft was further away from the terminal area. The fault indication was reset. A short time later the same fault re-appeared in relation to another pitch computer, together with all other associated fault indications. The crew also became aware that the aircraft control mode had changed to alternate law. As weather conditions in the departure area were good they decided to return for a landing at the departure aerodrome.

The pitch computer involved in the first fault indication was removed and tested. No fault was found. After further checking, the pitch trim control actuator (the component common to both pitch computers in normal operations) was replaced. No further faults were found and the aircraft was returned to service.

