



Australian Government
Australian Transport Safety Bureau

ATSB

Aviation Safety and Accident and Incident Investigation Symposium

Reflections on regional
cooperation: Australia

Presented by
Angus Mitchell
Chief Commissioner
Chief Executive Officer

Ming Li
Special Counsel





Malaysia
Singapore
Sri Lanka

Indonesia





Indonesia

**Papua New
Guinea**

**Solomon
Islands**

Island

**New
Zealand**



**New
Caledonia**

Fiji

Samoa

Tonga

**Norfolk
Island**

Cook Islands

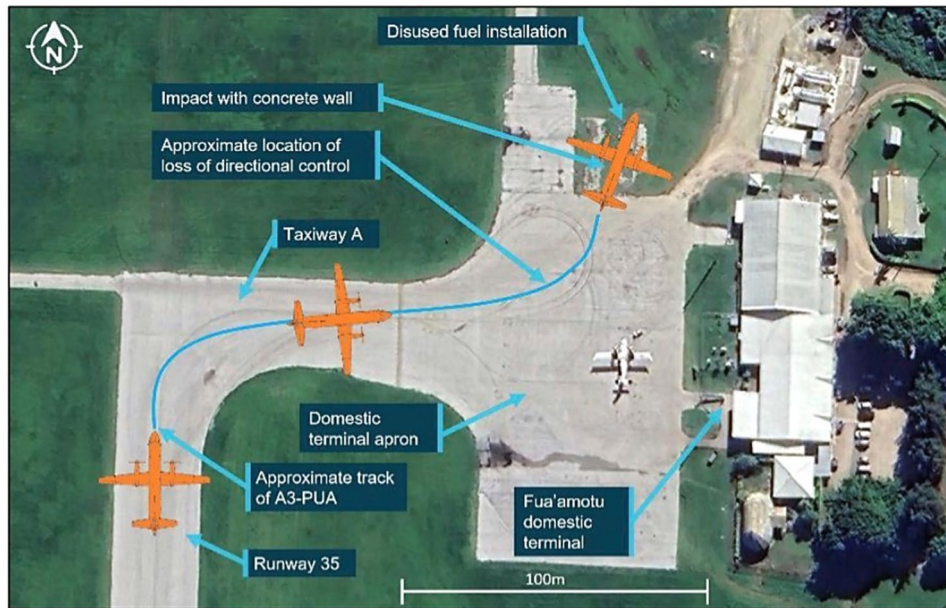
ATSB assistance to **Civil Aviation Division of Tonga**

- SAAB 340B accident on 8 December 2023
- ATSB technical assistance / Annex 13 accredited representative
- Preliminary report (CI-TCAD-AO-2023-001) on 26 March 2024



ATSB assistance to Tonga CAD

Figure 4: Approximate taxi path and point of loss of control



SAAB model not to scale

Source: Google Earth, annotated by the ATSB accredited representative to Tonga Chief Investigator

Figure 8: Right propeller blade damage



Source: Supplied, annotated by the ATSB accredited representative to Tonga Chief Investigator

ATSB assistance to Tonga CAD

- Annex 13 standards and legislative review (local laws, Australian laws)
- Establishing cooperation arrangements
- Local-led investigation, appointment of local investigator-in-charge
 - CVR download
 - Witness interviews
- Functional separation between regulator and safety investigator
- Respecting sovereignty, cultural norms
- Coordinating publication process

Loss of control during taxi and ground collision involving SAAB 340B, A3-PUA



Fua'amotu International Airport, Tonga, on 8 December 2023

Chief Investigator - TCAD Aviation Safety Report
 Aviation Occurrence Investigation
 AO-2023-001
 Preliminary – 26 March 2024

We were fortunate enough to receive the ATSB on ground in Tonga last December for assistance with an aircraft accident.

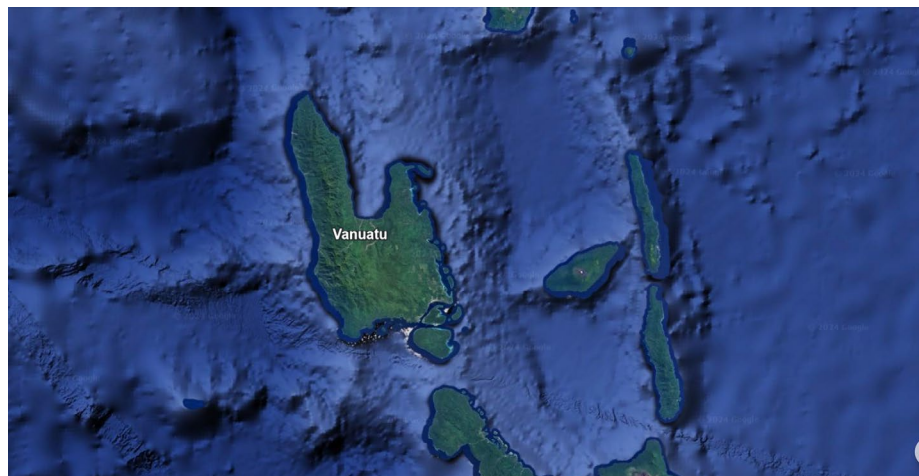
With this partnership, Tonga was able to experience the first full investigation conducted with the ATSB, progress through information collection, draft and deliver a Preliminary Report to the Hon. Prime Minister and relevant stakeholders whilst working on the full Investigation Report, engage with media for the Preliminary Report and to answer questions surrounding this investigation.

Overall, a great working / learning experience.



ATSB assistance to **Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu**

- BN2A-20 accident on 15 July 2024
- ATSB technical assistance / Annex 13 accredited representative
- Preliminary report (136272/AIG/A2.5) on 6 September 2024





ATSB assistance to CAA Vanuatu

- Annex 13 standards and legislative review (local laws, NZ laws, Australian laws)
- Establishing cooperation arrangements
- Local-led investigation, appointment of local investigator-in-charge
 - ICAO occurrence notification form
 - Site access and mapping
- Functional separation between regulator and safety investigator
- Respecting sovereignty, cultural norms
- Coordinating publication process



Civil Aviation Authority
Republic of Vanuatu

Fuel starvation and collision with terrain involving Britten-Norman Islander BN2A-20, YJ-AT2

6 km east-south-east of Port Vila International Airport, Vanuatu, on 15 July 2024



Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu – Aviation Safety Report
Aviation Occurrence Investigation
CAAV investigation number: 136272/AIG/A2.5
Preliminary – 6 September 2024



https://www.atsb.gov.au/



available here.

Any enquiries relating to the investigation should be directed to the CAAV.

To date, the CAAV and ATSB have:

- examined the aircraft site and wreckage
- collected pilot and aircraft records
- reviewed preliminary operational information
- collected meteorological data
- conducted interviews with relevant parties
- analysed recorded flight data.

The investigation is continuing and will likely include further review and examination of:

- further analysis of recorded data
- audio analysis of ATC recordings
- gathering additional operational information
- examination of flight and duty records
- examination of training records
- conducting additional interviews
- examination of recovered components
- analysis of the operating environment
- examination of the operator's safety management system
- survivability considerations

A final report will be released at the conclusion of the investigation. Should a critical safety issue be identified during the course of the investigation, the CAAV will immediately notify relevant parties so appropriate and timely safety action can be taken.

Last Updated: 06/09/2024

Aircraft Details

Manufacturer:	Britten Norman
Model:	BN2A-20
Registration:	YJ-AT2
Aircraft Operator:	Air Taxi Vanuatu
Sector:	Piston
Damage:	Destroyed

On this page

[Aircraft Details](#)

CAAV – 136272/AIG/A2.5

Preliminary report

An Investigator in Charge (IIC) has been appointed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu (CAAV) to conduct an accident investigation into the fuel starvation and collision with terrain involving Britten-Norman Islander BN2A-20, registered YJ-AT2, on 15 July 2024.

The CAAV IIC has published this preliminary report as an update on the accident investigation.

The purpose of this preliminary report is to detail factual information established in the investigation's early evidence collection phase, and has been prepared to provide timely information to the industry and public. Preliminary reports contain no analysis or findings, which will be detailed in the investigation's final report.

The CAAV IIC acknowledges the technical assistance provided by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the independent accident investigation authority of Australia, as an Annex 13 accredited representative to the accident investigation.

The occurrence

On 15 July 2024, the pilot of a Britten-Norman Islander BN2A-20 aircraft, registered YJ-AT2 and operated by Air Taxi Vanuatu, was preparing to conduct passenger-carrying charter flights under the visual flight rules.¹ The pilot arrived at the Air Taxi Vanuatu office at Port Vila International Airport at about 0530 Vanuatu Time.² Three return flights had been assigned to the pilot that day – 2 north and north-north-west from Port Vila then one to the south-south-east (Figure 1).

After obtaining weather information, the pilot submitted a flight plan for the first flight, which involved transporting 5 passengers to Sara, Pentecost Island. The pilot then conducted a pre-flight inspection of the aircraft and arranged for it to be refuelled.

ATSB assistance to CAA Vanuatu



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Accredited Representative to the Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu investigation – Collision with terrain involving Britten-Norman BN2A-20, YJ-AT2, near Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 15 July 2024

Investigation number

AA-2024-008

Occurrence date

15/07/2024

Location

near Port Vila, Vanuatu

State

International

Report status

Preliminary

Investigation type

Accredited Representative

Investigation phase

Evidence collection

Investigation status

Active

Aviation occurrence type

Collision with terrain

Highest injury level

Fatal

Anticipated completion

Q1 2025

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[Aircraft Details](#)

Investigation No.	Occurrence Class	Occurrence Date	Registration	Location	Status	View
136272/AIG/A2.5	Accident	15 July 2024	YJ-AT2	6 km east-south-east of Port Vila International Airport	Ongoing	View

Australia-Pacific Partnerships for Aviation Program (P4A)

- Australia has a range of activities to enhance aviation safety and accident investigation capacity in the South Pacific - P4A program
 - Resilient and sustainable Pacific aviation sector
 - Enhancing aviation strategy, policy, governance and leadership – stronger aviation and tourism linkages
 - Access to technical assistance to enhance aviation regulation and policy development
 - Strengthening **safety investigations** through training and capability enhancement





Australian Government

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AVIATION IN THE PACIFIC

Through the Australia-Pacific Partnerships for Aviation Program (P4A), Australia and the Pacific are working together to build a safer, more resilient and sustainable Pacific aviation sector, and support a more connected Pacific.

P4A will support government ministries, airport authorities, aviation regulators, meteorological services and other stakeholders to improve aviation safety, quality, and sustainability.



As part of the P4A, we are:

- Supporting **Pacific students to study aircraft engineering** at Fiji National University and aviation management at Griffith University through the Australia Awards program, with **places allocated equally to women and men**
- Providing access to a pool of aviation technical advisers, with a strong focus on **enhancing aviation strategy and policy** through government ministries in coordination with critical aviation organisations
- Enhancing **access to aviation leadership and governance** training for aviation boards and relevant ministries



Photo: Australia-Pacific
Pacific Connector picking
up passengers in Majuro

- Developing **stronger aviation and tourism linkages** and strategies, noting the interdependence of both sectors
- Developing airports as economic gateways through master **planning support** and **airport ground support equipment**
- Strengthening aviation **meteorological capabilities** through new observing infrastructure, training for forecasters and peer-to-peer support
- Supporting Pacific partners' **access to technical assistance** to enhance aviation regulation and policy development
- Connecting people and markets through sector planning support, such as **technical assistance for route and passenger analysis**
- **Strengthening safety investigations** through training and capability enhancement
- Enhancing **gender equality, disability inclusion, and environmental sustainability** in all initiatives

We work in partnership with the Pacific to deliver improved aviation outcomes, guided by the Pacific's aviation priorities and needs.

HOW WE
DELIVER

P4A
AUSTRALIA - PACIFIC
PARTNERSHIPS FOR AVIATION

For more information on P4A
pacific.aviation@dfat.gov.au

May 2024



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Australian Transport Safety Bureau

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