

Virgin pilot blown over by Qantas jet



A PILOT suffered serious injuries when the rear aircraft stairs of his Virgin plane was toppled by the engine thrust of a Qantas 747 jumbo jet.

The Virgin Australia first officer was undertaking pre-flight checks with his plane due to depart for Bali, when a nearby Qantas plane taxiing on the runway caused the drama, Fairfax reports.

The force of the Qantas jet's engines caused the rear stairs of the Virgin 737 to blow over with the pilot on deck, causing him to suffer leg and arm fractures.

Safety authorities are investigating the incident, which occurred this morning at Brisbane's international airport.

"Our plane was in the right place at the right time," a Virgin spokesperson said.

"The one dynamic which was different was the thrust level of the Qantas plane which caused the stairs to blow over."

Qantas insists there was no breach of protocol on the part of its pilots.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/virgin-pilot-blown-over-by-qantas-jet/story-e6frf7jo-1226171702527>