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Engine surge grounds Qantas jet

- by Staff Writers
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A QANTAS plane has been forced down shortly after take-off after experiencing a surge in one of its engines.

The Boeing 747 operating Qantas Flight 1 from Bangkok to London Heathrow experienced the engine problem shortly after take-off at 4am (AEST).

“The captain of the aircraft shut down that engine and carried out an air return to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport,” a statement from the airline said.

"There was no safety issue at any stage," Qantas said in a statement today.

"Boeing 747 aircraft can fly normally on three engines.

"Engine surges do not occur regularly, but are not an unknown event on jet aircraft. Qantas pilots are trained to handle them if they occur."

Qantas said passengers were never in any danger.

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A replacement aircraft is being flown to Bangkok from Sydney and the 335 passengers on board have been transferred to hotel accommodation, Qantas said.

The aircraft last underwent a maintenance check in Melbourne last month.

It's the latest in a series of mechanical problems for Qantas.

Passengers on a flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane were delayed more than 17 hours after engine problems were discovered on the aircraft as it was due to take off yesterday.

They were taken to hotels while a second aircraft was brought in, and finally arrived in Brisbane late last night.

Also yesterday, a Qantas plane flying to Los Angeles was grounded in Melbourne after cracks started to appear in its cockpit window.

On Friday, an engine fault grounded a flight out of Brisbane.

On Wednesday, a Qantas A380 superjumbo suffered two tyre blowouts on landing in Sydney, due to a problem with its brakes.

And on Tuesday of last week, an engine surge forced a Singapore-bound flight to return to Sydney Airport.

Meanwhile, Singapore police are questioning a man who threatened to bring down a Qantas flight from Sydney.

The ABC reported that the apparently delusional middle-aged man was restrained by flight attendants after threatening to disrupt the flight through "mind power".
- with AAP

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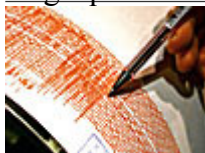
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