



## Pilot killed in light plane crash at Lethbridge, north-west of Geelong



**Photo:** [Witnesses said the plane swerved off the runway before crashing into grass. \(ABC News\)](#)

An 85-year-old pilot has been killed in a light plane crash at Lethbridge, north-west of Geelong. Witnesses said they saw the plane taxiing down the runway at the Lethbridge Airpark at about midday. They said the pilot made several attempts to take off but it never reached altitude. It then swerved off the runway and crashed into the grass.

Senior Sergeant Jim Lappin said onlookers, one of whom is a former paramedic and another who is a doctor, tried to revive the man but he died at the scene.

"Fortunately there were witnesses here that saw it at the time and when they went across there to render assistance to the pilot, they quickly saw that he was deceased," he said.

He said it was too early to tell what had caused the crash.

"We're not sure whether it's a mechanical failure in relation to the capacity of the aircraft to get off the ground, or whether or not there may have been a health issue," Senior Sergeant Lappin said.

The pilot was the sole occupant of the plane.

Senior Sergeant Lappin said the man, from the western suburbs of Melbourne, was an experienced pilot and owned the plane.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is expected to investigate the crash.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-08/man-killed-in-light-plane-crash-near-geelong/6603990>

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