

## Police to examine wreckage of fatal light aircraft crash off North Stradbroke Island

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**Photo:** Wreckage of what appears to be a light aircraft has been spotted washed up on North Stradbroke Island by a media helicopter. (Supplied: Channel 7 and Channel 9)

Queensland police will this morning examine the wreckage of a fatal plane crash near North Stradbroke Island, saying it is still too early to say what caused the ultra light aircraft to go down.

Pilot James Marsden, 60, died when his <u>plane crashed into the ocean about 100 metres from shore off Point</u> <u>Lookout</u> yesterday.

He took off from Dunwich on the western side of North Stradbroke Island about 10:00am but his intended destination was unknown.

Police have interviewed three witnesses, and Acting Police Superintendent Steve Dabinett said investigators still needed help from the public.

"Any witnesses at all to this incident, we would ask if they could please contact the police Crime Stoppers or our Police Link number," he said.

"We have got an expert coming from Melbourne who will be assisting us with our report for the coroner, and the ultra light is quite intact but there may be parts that have broken away.

"Obviously if anyone finds any of those parts to contact police so that we can recover those for the investigation."

Superintendent Dabinet said 12 marine vessels and two helicopters helped with the search after a distress beacon was activated about 11:30am Saturday, eight kilometres south-east of Point Lookout.

Images snapped from a jointly-funded Channel 7 and 9 helicopter showed what appeared to be aircraft wreckage in the water.

QPS said Water Police and POLAIR were also providing assistance.

An exclusion zone was set up encompassing George Northling Drive and The Causeway.