

Pilot who crashed in remote WA 'stalked by dingoes' on trek to safety

By [Sarah Taillier](#)



Photo: Pilot Peter Lacy clipped a tree as he tried to land his single-engine Cessna 120 in the remote WA outback. (Supplied)

A man who survived an aircraft crash in Western Australia's remote Mid West says he was stalked by dingoes as he walked more than 20 kilometres to find help.

Peter Lacy was returning from a gold mine on Saturday to Cue, about 660km north-east of Perth, when his small plane's engine started spewing smoke into the cabin.

The 48-year-old was forced to land the single-engine Cessna 120 in difficult terrain.

"There was no clear brakes at all," he said.

"That's why I had to only sort of look after myself and attempt to sort of save the aircraft as much as I could."

But he said the right wing clipped a tree on the way down.

I had to walk because nobody knew where I was, so I walked for 25 kilometres into where I knew some hills were. Then I was able to ring for help from there.

Peter Lacy

"I skidded for probably 10 metres before coming to rest against a tree, where aviation fuel started pouring on top of me so I had to vacate very quickly," he said.

"I was concerned I would have caught fire."

The experienced pilot was able to drag himself free of the wreckage, surprised to have only received a hit to the head and "a couple of little scratches".

After spending hours trying to activate a broken EPIRB, Mr Lacy decided to set off on foot for help.

"I had to walk because nobody knew where I was, so I walked for 25 kilometres into where I knew some hills

were," he said.

"Then I was able to ring for help from there."

Mr Lacy, who lives in Bunbury but works across the Mid West repairing roads, said while walking he was harassed by dingoes.

"There was about three or four of them sort of circling me while I was walking along ... which I was sort of concerned about," he said.

"They weren't too far away.

"I couldn't see them because the moon was up but the cloud sort of covered the moon, so you couldn't really see where you were going too well."

Poor weather conditions hampered the search effort for the 48-year-old, who waited about 24 hours before he was rescued.

"I was quite relieved when the police turned up on the motorbike and picked me up," he said.

Despite the ordeal, Mr Lacy said he was not scared off flying.

"I'd get back in one again tomorrow," he said.

"Everything from my training and my experience in the bush, I think I made the right decision, I think, to make sure I got back to tell the tale."

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-06/flight-crash-survivor-stalked-by-dingoes-on-trek-to-safety/6676130>

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