

The mystery of a sleek seaplane at Patonga has been solved

By Emma Simkin

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A \$500,000 seaplane abandoned on the New South Wales Central Coast is owned by a pilot with links to an international crime ring.

Mystery has surrounded the sleek seaplane that has been at Patonga Beach for weeks.

The plane is registered to a Wollongong company owned by Bernhard Stevermuer, who last week was sentenced to 19 months jail for his role in bringing aircraft into Australia for cash payments.

Drug squad detectives swooped on a U-S registered plane that landed at Illawarra regional airport last July.

The father of three was then charged with being part of an international drug ring.

He had \$70,000 in cash which police said was his payment for bringing the plane into Australia.

He pleaded guilty and was last week sentenced to a minimum nine months in jail.

The NSW Middle Eastern Crime Squad and U-S Homeland Security has jointly investigated the case.

Police are aware of the plane's existence at Patonga, and say the aircraft has broken down.

The arrest of Bernhard Stevermuer, has been described as a real-life Breaking Bad.

The 43-year-old cancer sufferer is set to appeal his jail sentence.

In court it was argued that Stevermuer took part in the syndicate to help ensure his family's financial future.

Extracted from:

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