

Pilot dies in ultralight plane crash in north Queensland

A man in his 60s was killed when his ultralight plane crashed while taking off from an air strip south of Townsville in north Queensland this morning.

The accident happened at Woodstock, about 40 kilometres south-west of Townsville, just before 7:00am.

Peter Gibson from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority said the pilot was trying to turn the aircraft around to land when it crashed and burst into flames.

"The aircraft was just taking off, it's had some difficulties and tried to turn back to the airstrip and hasn't made it," he said.

"It crashed into a wooded area quite close to the airstrip at Woodstock."

He said the pilot was the only person on board.

Mr Gibson said police are still at the scene and investigators will travel to the airfield to examine the wreckage and pinpoint the cause of the accident.

"The aircraft, being an ultralight, is registered with Recreational Aviation Australia," Mr Gibson said.

"They'll be conducting an investigation, providing a report to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

"We'll be reviewing that report and obviously trying to learn any safety lessons we can, so we can avoid these kinds of tragedies in the future."

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