

Two dead in light plane crash near Lancefield, north of Melbourne



Photo: Police say a member of the public saw the plane flying out of control. (ABC News: Jessica Longbottom)

Two people have died after a light plane lost control and crashed in a paddock near Lancefield in central Victoria, police say.

Authorities said the crash happened just before 11:30am and the plane exploded when it hit the ground.

Police said a member of the public saw the plane flying out of control.

"At the start, [we] thought it was just an acrobatic stunt or a pilot just trying different things, but very quickly realised it wasn't that," one neighbour who rushed to the scene, Dan, said.

Police said it was believed those on board were two adult males.

"We've been able to confirm that there were two occupants on board and sadly they're both deceased. We believe them to be two adult males," Acting Senior Sergeant Nick Peckham said.

"It would seem that the aircraft struck some form of mechanical issue.

"There's no suggestion at all that they were performing stunts or anything like that."

The plane, which took off from Sunbury airport about 10:30am, crashed into a paddock near the intersection of Shannons Road and the Kilmore-Lancefield Road.

Witnesses said despite their best efforts to put out the fire at the crash scene there was nothing they could do to save those on board.

Police said the impact of the crash would have been what killed the pilot and passenger.

"Unfortunately the two occupants stood no chance," Acting Senior Sergeant Peckham said.

Air Traffic Safety Bureau authorities have been informed and police will prepare a report for the coroner.

Anyone who saw the plane has been urged to contact Kyneton police.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-09/two-dead-in-light-plane-crash-north-of-melbourne/7313286>

On 09/04/16 at 17:46:57