

Pilot dead near Albany after plane crashes in dense, inaccessible bushland

By [Nicolas Perpitch](#)



Photo: Police are working to access the crash site in a national park. (ABC News: Ben Gubana)

A man has died after a light plane crashed in a national park near Albany on Western Australia's south coast.

WA Police Superintendent Dom Wood said a light aircraft had gone down in dense bushland in the Mount Lindesay National Park, in an area locally known as the Sheepwash Nature Reserve.

The pilot who died is a 40-year-old Albany local, according to WA Police.

"The difficulty is from the ground getting to the scene because it is quite a dense area of bush," he told ABC Great Southern this afternoon.

"There is still smoke, potentially fire risk as well."

He said he rescuers had to walk several kilometres from the closest road to the scene.

Witnesses heard an explosion

A local dairy farmer who spoke to the ABC said he called in the suspected crash after a worker on his farm saw what he thought was a light plane go down in nearby forest.

The farmer, Pieter Mostert, who is also the fire control officer for the Redmond fire brigade, said he heard a plane go over his property on the outskirts of Redmond, about 400 kilometres south-east of Perth, about 11:00am.

One of his workers saw it go into the north-east corner of Mount Lindesay National Park, he said.

"My wife heard the explosion from up [at] the house, which is 700 metres up from the dairy," he said.

"My co-worker had full sight of it."

Mr Mostert said the terrain where the plane is thought to have gone down was steep and heavily forested.

"I believe they may be hampered with the access to get into the site, and it also could be difficult because [of] the communications in our area," he said.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-24/plane-down-west-of-albany-in-wa-south/9081018>

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