

## Pilot Zac Cox explains how he kept calm during emergency landing at Archerfield Airport

By [Lexy Hamilton-Smith](#)



**Photo:** Zac Cox was able to guide the plane down for a bumpy landing. (Supplied)

**A pilot who made an emergency landing at Brisbane's Archerfield Airport when the plane's landing gear failed says he can't wait to get back in the air.**

Zac Cox, 21, was flying from Coffs Harbour when his Beechcraft's nose wheel became jammed.

The commercial pilot remained cool, calm and collected while bringing the stricken plane down safely on the nose while nervous witnesses looked on.

His two passengers fled through open doors, but instead of escaping with them Mr Cox stayed with the aircraft.

"I shut down the plane and turned off all the fuel, electronics and I got out and went as far away as I could," he said. "I just wanted to secure the plane first."

**The young pilot has 285 hours under his belt and is halfway through an instructor's course.**

He was on a proficiency flight with two other pilots when the drama unfolded, and said panicking was not going to help the situation.

"We went through procedures, checked lists, and had air traffic control helping us," he said.

"We just did what we had to do." **Cox 'commanded the situation'**



**Photo:** Pilot Zac Cox, centre, and the two passengers who escaped unharmed. (Supplied)

Back at the Professional Training School at Coffs Harbour he has been hailed as a hero, but one who was just doing what he was trained to do.

Chief trainer Robert Loretan said he was proud of his former student.

"He commanded the situation very well," he said.

"In the old days, you were a bit of a lone gunslinger out there, and when things went wrong it was up to you to go and fix it.

"But with modern communications he has a huge resource outside the cockpit he can access, and he did that very well. "

"When I spoke to him after the accident, I said, 'you just validated your commercial pilot's licence'."



**Photo:** Mentor Robert Loretan congratulates Zac Cox on his safe landing. (Supplied)

On Friday, Mr Cox got a pat on the back and a handshake for his efforts.

But celebrating the feat, described as "textbook" landing, with a beer or two was not on the agenda, as he has two months of study left before he qualifies as a flying instructor.

And Mr Loretan, his boss, is a tough task master.

"We do not buy them beers, we make them stay dry for the whole pilot's course. No drunken pilots in this organisation," he laughed.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-28/zac-cox-pilot-explains-archerfield-landing/8481308>

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