

Hawkesbury River seaplane crash: Search for survivors after aircraft with six people goes down near Cowan

Emergency teams are searching for survivors after a seaplane with six people on board crashed into the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.

Police say the plane went down about 3:15pm today (local time) at Jerusalem Bay near the town of Cowan.

The seaplane was returning a party of five people from the Cottage Point Inn Restaurant to Rose Bay in Sydney's east when it crashed into the water.

Debris and an oil slick have been found on the surface where the plane went down.

Numerous rescue vessels, including NSW Police divers and NSW Ambulance helicopters, are at the scene.



Photo: The aircraft was operated by Sydney Seaplanes. (sydneyseaplanes.com.au)

Parts of the wreckage have been found, Stephen Leahy from the Westpac Lifesaver helicopter said.

"It is in deep water and police divers are en route to try to determine if there are any survivors," he said.

The crashed aircraft was operated by Sydney Seaplanes.

Aaron Shaw, the company's managing director, confirmed one pilot and five passengers were on board.

The journey from Cottage Point to Rose Bay would normally take 20 minutes.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau will investigate the incident.

A marine command centre has been established at Apple Tree Bay boat ramp near Bobbin Head in the Ku Ring Gai National Park near Cowan.

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