

Crash 'didn't seem to faze' 78-year-old pilot too much, says son

By [Jocelyn Garcia](#) — 21 December 2018 — 5:01pm

Dalby man Justin Boland had the shock of his life when he saw his father crash-land his airplane shortly after take-off in the Darling Downs after losing power.

His 78-year-old father, David Boland, was forced to dump his cargo in an effort to regain power when he left Dalby Airport moments after refuelling his Ayres Thrush 600 on Friday morning.



A pilot has crashed in Queensland shortly after take-off and has escaped serious injuries. *Credit: Seven News.*

He was flying to Bongeen, about 60 kilometres from Dalby, to fertilise crops when the incident happened about 5am near the Bunya Highway.

The experienced pilot of almost 60 years crashed in a paddock at the Dalby high school campus and escaped without serious injuries.

Justin Boland described his father as a confident and competent pilot.

"He has been flying since he was 19 and he hasn't crashed since 1973," he said.

"He is probably one of the most experienced crop dusting pilots in Queensland."

Despite this, Mr Boland said he was worried while he watched the incident unfold, looking on from the airport's tarmac.

"We loaded the aircrafts as usual and my brother, Matthew, had already gone in one and my father was next," he said.

"He took off but then you could see he was losing altitude and he told me afterwards, the gauges showed him that everything was all right but he felt like he was losing power.

"So he dumped the fertiliser he had but that gave him no relief."

Mr Boland said he was hoping his father could land safely, concerns he might not have been able to land in a safe place.

"It's not plain country here and the way the plane was going, heading towards a line of trees, you could see he was running out of options," he said.

"He was near the Bunya Highway when he was going down."

David Boland landed safely without serious injuries while the plane was left badly damaged, with one wing missing.

A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services spokesman said he did not know how the aircraft lost power but praised the man for his safe emergency landing.

"The pilot is fine, just a little bit shaken up," he told Seven News.

"He's done a very good job. He had the peace of mind to dump his fertiliser to try and regain power but hasn't been successful."

Police were also on scene while paramedics were cancelled en route to the incident after receiving a report he travelled to hospital by private means.

Justin Boland said he breathed a sigh of relief when he received a phone call from his father to pick him up as he walked to the other side of the paddock after the crash.

"My son Jim and I picked him up in the ute to take him to Dalby Hospital and all he needed was some stitches on his finger," he said.

"The crash didn't seem to faze him too much, he is now running errands around town but I am extremely relieved nothing bad happened to him."

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and CASA are investigating the cause of the crash.

Extracted from:

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/crash-didn-t-seem-to-faze-78-year-old-pilot-too-much-says-son-20181221-p50npx.html>

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