

Gyrocopter crashes at Forrest Beach near Capel, Busselton

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Two men from Perth have died after the gyrocopter they were travelling in crashed a few metres off from the shore of a remote section of a South West beach.

The crash happened around 2.20pm Wednesday at Forrest Beach between Capel and Busselton.

Inspector Steve George said police received a phone call from a witness who saw the gyrocopter drop around 200m from the sky. It landed in knee-deep water about 10 metres from the shore at a remote section of Forrest Beach, a popular fishing spot between Busselton and Capel with little development and few homes nearby.

He confirmed the plane was privately owned.

“We had a witness say they observed the gyroplane, it was about 200m up in the air and it crashed into the water,” Insp George said.

“We are recovering the gyroplane. What police will do now is we will recover the plane from the water and we will prepare a report for the coroner and the federal air transport authorities.

“Tomorrow we’ll probably get some police divers to come out and have a look and search the ocean for other parts of the aircraft.”

Police from Busselton and Bunbury, plus forensic officers, attended the crash.



By 5pm, the wreckage was still in the water but police hoped to recover it before nightfall and transport it to Bunbury for further forensic examination.

Strong, gusty winds were battering the stretch of coast by late Wednesday, but Insp George said conditions were “quite calm” when police first arrived at the scene of the crash.

Police were at the scene within 15-20 minutes of receiving the emergency call, he said.

A Civil Aviation Safety Authority spokesman said the small recreational aircraft was flying along the shoreline when it crashed.

Police and St John Ambulance were immediately called and rushed to the scene, but paramedics were stood down.

The CASA spokesman said the Australian Sports Rotorcraft Association had been notified and would likely assist police with their investigation.

Extracted from:

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/helicopter-crashes-at-forrest-beach-near-capel-busselton-ng-b881097261z>

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