

## Plane reported missing off Gold Coast prompts air and sea search



**Photo:** This Yak 52, flown by Barry Hempel, crashed between North and South Stradbroke islands in 2008. (Hempels Aviation: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) - file image)

### **Gold Coast authorities are searching for a Soviet-era Yak 52 plane that went missing on Wednesday afternoon near South Stradbroke Island.**

It is the same model plane that crashed in a similar location in 2008, claiming two lives.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) confirmed on Wednesday afternoon it had started a search and rescue response for the missing aircraft in the vicinity of South Stradbroke Island.

"Air Traffic Control contacted AMSA at about 1:15pm to report that the missing plane with two people on board had failed to return after departing Southport airfield on a 30-minute scenic flight at 10:00am," AMSA said in a statement.

"AMSA is currently sourcing aerial assets to conduct a search along the aircraft's most likely route."

Southport Airport is actually located in Coombabah, north of Southport, and is home to the Southport Flying Club.

The Yak 52 is a Soviet-era training aircraft often used for aerobatics and scenic flights.

There has been no contact with the missing aircraft since it was reported missing.

In April 2008, Brisbane pilot Barry Hempel and a passenger died when Hempel crashed his Yak 52 near Jumpinpin Bar, between North and South Stradbroke islands

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<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-05/plane-missing-off-gold-coast-prompts-search-yak-52/11183322>

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