

Fatal light plane crash in Far North Queensland cornfield near aerodrome

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PHOTO: A police post near the site of a light plane crash in a cornfield. (ABC News: Fiona Sewell)

Two men have died in a light plane crash near the Mareeba Aerodrome, west of Cairns.

The twin-engine propeller plane came down in a cornfield at the end of the aerodrome and rescue crews arrived on scene at 11:30am.

Authorities said the Angel Aircraft Corporation Model 44 Angel twin-engine light plane made a "heavy impact".

Both men, the pilot a 73-year-old man from Cooktown and his passenger, a 63-year-old man from Stuart, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Detective Acting Inspector Kev Goan said one man died on impact and that paramedics were unable to save a second person who survived the crash but died at the scene.

"Support was rendered through the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services also attended in the hope they could render assistance to a second person in the aircraft," he said.

"Unfortunately those attempts were in vain, the second person has now passed away."

Acting Inspector Goan said it appeared the aircraft was involved in a training exercise.

He said witnesses reported hearing the plane's engines making unusual noises.

"Then of course we were notified to the crash."

Key points:

- One man died on impact, a second man who survived the crash died at the scene
- The aircraft is unusually designed, with engines and propellers positioned at the back of its wings
- The ATSB is sending experts to the scene to investigate the crash

The Angel 44 is an aircraft of unusual design, with engines and propellers positioned at the back of the wings instead of the front.



PHOTO: An Angel 44 twin-engine plane similar to this crashed near Mareeba Aerodrome. (angelaircraft.com)

Acting Inspector Goan said the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) would take carriage of the investigation and try to piece together the events leading up to the crash.

"Of course we [the QPS] will be working with them to deliver answers for the family, friends and loved ones, of the gentlemen who are now deceased."

The ATSB released a statement saying it had launched an investigation into the Angel Aircraft Corporation Model 44 Angel twin-engine light plane's "fatal collision with terrain".

"A team of transport safety investigators with experience in aircraft operations, aircraft maintenance and data recovery from the ATSB's Brisbane and Canberra offices are preparing to deploy to Mareeba to examine the wreckage and accident site," the ATSB said in a statement.

The North Queensland Aero Club said via social media it was not involved "in any way".

"Our thoughts go out to those involved," the aero club said in a Facebook post.

Extracted from:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-14/two-killed-in-far-north-queensland-light-plane-crash/11800404>

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