

# 2017 Sydney Seaplanes DHC-2 crash

On 31 December 2017 at about 3:15 pm AEDT (UTC+11:00), a de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver configured as a floatplane crashed into Jerusalem Bay off Cowan Creek,<sup>[1]</sup> on the northern outskirts of Sydney, Australia. The aircraft, operated by Sydney Seaplanes, was carrying five passengers and a pilot, all of whom were killed in the crash. It was returning diners from Cottage Point Inn restaurant to Rose Bay Water Airport.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

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## Aircraft

The aircraft was a 54-year old de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver, originally built in 1963 and registered in Australia since February 1964; it was powered by a single Pratt & Whitney R-985 Wasp Junior engine.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1996, the aircraft was destroyed in a crash while working as a crop duster near Armidale, New South Wales, killing the pilot. The aircraft was then completely rebuilt; the Civil Aviation Safety Authority confirmed that it had been repaired according to industry requirements.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Victims

The Canadian-Australian pilot<sup>[6]</sup> and five British tourists – Richard Cousins, 58, CEO of British foodservice company Compass Group, his two sons, his fiancée<sup>[7]</sup> and her daughter – were killed in the crash.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

## Investigation

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) opened an investigation into the accident. Most of the wreckage of the aircraft was raised on 4 January 2018.<sup>[10]</sup> The intermediate report, published on 31 January 2018, indicated that the aircraft was found to have followed a differing flight path from the usual, and had failed to climb to the necessary altitude needed to fly over the surrounding terrain. It also indicated that the preliminary examination of aircraft flight

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VH-NOO, the aircraft involved in the accident, seen here in January 2017

Accident	
<b>Date</b>	31 December 2017
<b>Summary</b>	Crashed mid-flight, under investigation
<b>Site</b>	Cowan Creek
Aircraft	
<b>Aircraft type</b>	de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver
<b>Operator</b>	Sydney Seaplanes
<b>Registration</b>	VH-NOO
<b>Flight origin</b>	Cottage Point, New South Wales
<b>Destination</b>	Rose Bay Water Airport
<b>Occupants</b>	6
<b>Passengers</b>	5
<b>Crew</b>	1
<b>Fatalities</b>	6
<b>Survivors</b>	0

control surfaces and controls seemed in sound order and expected positions, and as well that the engine sounded normal to witnesses on the ground. The aircraft landed inverted and all six on board suffered fatal injuries. The investigation will continue with international assistance.<sup>[11]</sup>

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