

# UFO riddle—police rule out flares

TOWNSVILLE, Today: Police have ruled out the possibility that an unidentified flying object seen over north Queensland skies last night may have been distress flares.

A Townsville police spokesman said no boats were in the area where the UFO was seen.

Police are still puzzled by widespread reports of the fiery object seen plummeting to earth about 7.20pm.

The object was seen as far north as Yarrabah, 1676 kms north of Brisbane and south to Mackay, 964kms north of Brisbane.

All reports, including one from a Townsville policeman and another from a commercial airline pilot near Palm Island off the coast, were similar in description.

One of the most vivid descriptions came from Phillip Lawranze (16), who said he was sitting on the boot of a car at Mackay when he saw the object.

He said: "I saw this big silver ball coming down. It had a red, green and yellow fire behind it."

Police believe the object may have been space debris.