

UFO 'BUZZES' LOST PILOT

MELBOURNE, Sun, AAP — A pilot missing in Bass Strait reported being buzzed by an unidentified object for a quarter of an hour before losing radio contact with Melbourne air traffic controllers, a Department of Transport spokesman said today.

Mr Ken Williams said the pilot radioed air traffic controllers at 7pm yesterday and reported an aircraft flying below him at about 1500m.

Mr Williams said the controllers told the pilot there were no other planes in the area.

Mr Williams said the controllers reported no other aircraft, including air force planes, in the area.

He said the pilot then told controllers the object was long and metallic, with four bright lights on the

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top, and appeared to be playing with his Cessna.

The pilot's last communication with ground control was that he was having trouble with one engine after the object had hovered over him for some time, but he was heading towards King Island.

Mr Williams said the department believed it was possible the pilot was disoriented and was flying his plane upside down during the conversation with ground control.