

# 'Exploding' object at dawn over Sydney

**SYDNEY:** Numerous reports of an unidentified flying object exploding in the pre-dawn sky were telephoned to Sydney air-traffic controllers and meteorologists yesterday morning.

Residents from as far afield as Hunters Hill, a Sydney inner suburb, and Campbelltown, 50 kilometres south of Sydney, reported the object as a bright yellow-orange explosion "which lit up like a fireworks shower".

"These were not just the usual UFO reports", one controller said. "Most callers were convinced it was Skylab's final moments they had witnessed.

All callers put the explosion in the 6am to 6.15am time bracket.

Details are being passed to the Royal Australian Air Force department in Canberra which investigates all UFO sightings.

A Hunters Hill surgeon said he watched the happening from his verandah at 6.15am.

"It appeared as a straight-tracking white line in the sky moving in a south-west to north-easterly direction" he said.

easterly direction", he said.  
"Then came a flash — just like  
a jet aircraft engine flash-out.

**"It was a sudden, yellow-orange flash, then there was nothing. It just seemed to disappear".**

**Mr Jerry Turek, of Pennant Hills, said he saw what he thought was Skylab about 6.20am.**

**"I was standing in the backyard when I saw what I thought was a jumbo jet coming in to land", he said.**

**"But as I was watching it I noticed it had a fiery tail, when I looked up again, it blew up into quite a number of pieces and they disintegrated. The main part kept on going from south to north, then disappeared."**

**Sydney Observatory said it believed the object was "almost certainly some kind of space vehicle re-entering the atmosphere".**

**Reports of sightings telephoned to the observatory were "almost identical" and were analysed by officers on duty.**

**"We have concluded that it must have been something in the order of a space vehicle", a spokesman said.**

**"This would account for the trail it left and the fact that some reports indicated it was still in sight after the explosion"**

reports indicated it was seen in sight after the 'explosion'.

---

**"It must have been a space vehicle or space junk of some kind".**

---

Authorities in Canberra said they had no knowledge of any space vehicles either falling or exploding over Sydney.

A spokesman for the Department of Science's space-projects branch said the branch was concerned only with satellite-type space craft.

Tracking Skylab was not included in this, but on the visible-satellites prediction-service bulletin, Skylab would have been visible over Sydney about 4.25am.

The only other two craft passing over Sydney around dawn were an inert rocket casing from an American space shot, which would have been visible about 4.57am and the Soviet Union's Salyut space vehicle, around 5.13am.

Salyut would have been the biggest of these three space vehicles.

The department was not aware of any of these three vehicles either falling or exploding.

---

