

Victorians report a UFO

MELBOURNE: An unidentified flying object was reported crossing the sky above Victoria shortly after 6pm on Friday, according to a Federal Department of Transport spokesman.

Sightings came from south-eastern Melbourne suburbs, Moorabbin Airport, south-east of Melbourne, and Shepparton, 180 kilometres to the north.

The department spokesman said the object was sighted in the north-eastern sky.

An air-traffic controller at Moorabbin Airport reported the object as being "bright silver" at first but changing colour to green and red as it headed further north. A spokesman for the Federal Government committee monitoring space objects said there was "little chance" the object was the Russian satellite Cosmos which passes over Australia four times a day.

The satellite was scheduled to pass over South Australia and Queensland at 6.30pm but should not have been visible from Victoria.

from Victoria.

"The Government is confident that if there was any change in the Cosmos orbit the United States would notify Australia," he said.

Calls reporting sightings began soon after 6pm.

Melbourne airport flight-service officer Mr Joe White said, "I was sitting at my flight-service console and I just saw it in the background out the window. It was heading downwards at a steep angle, about 80 degrees, but disappeared from sight before it reached the ground.

"It was bright green and had a tail of light behind it which was also a green colour."

The senior operations controller at Tullamarine Airport, Mr Brian Whiteley, said the object did not show up on radar screens and a check confirmed that no aircraft were missing.

"We contacted the RAAF and have reported it as an unidentified flying object," he said.

An officer at Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communications Centre in Canberra said that no NASA station around the world had reported any satellite coming down.

The president of the Victorian UFO Research Society, Mrs Judith Magee, said reports of sightings died down yesterday and she felt it had been the Cosmos satellite.