

▶ Fireball over WA

PERTH: A bright flash in the sky captivated scores of people across Western Australia on Thursday night who witnessed what may have been dust shed by a comet thousands of years ago.

Perth Observatory astronomer Jamie Biggs said the event was seen as far as Dandaragan, 170km north of Perth, and as far as Albany, 410km south of Perth.

Dr Biggs said the specific incident was what was called a fireball — a bright shooting star.

“We’re not sure, but there is a meteor stream that the Earth has just started passing through last night, and this is the dust and junk that has been shed by a comet, possibly thousands of years ago,” he said.

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