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● SUNDAY SIGHTING

Division over UFOs



Henry Budd

Experts are divided over the authenticity of Sydney's latest UFO sighting.

Three unidentified flying objects were photographed hovering over Governor Macquarie Drive at Chipping Norton on Sunday by mother of two Fiona Hartigan.

The photo shows a blurry dark object suspended several hundred metres above the road with two smaller objects off to the right.

UFO Investigation Centre spokesman Bill Chalker interviewed Hartigan last night and said he could offer no explanation as to what the dark circular objects could be.

"It does seem to be a pretty intriguing case," Chalker said.

"It's definitely not a hoax.

"The objects have been picked up on five photographs, but it's not something we have been able to offer an explanation for."

Blue Mountains UFO Research founder Rex Gilroy was not prepared to declare the objects as unidentifiable.

"There's a bit of uncertainty about the photograph," he said.

"I'm not saying it's a hoax, but it is just not clear enough to say what it is."

UFO Research NSW spokesman Doug Moffett said there was no obvious explanation for the sighting, but offered a reason for why the central object appeared blurry.

"When you zoom in on the photograph it appears there's a halo around the large object," Moffett said.

"This could be caused by an electro-magnetic propulsion system ionising the atmosphere immediately around the object."

The experts were also divided on how many UFOs were sighted over NSW.

Gilroy said 6000 were seen in the past 12 months.

Moffett said there were between 1000 and 1500 UFO sightings in Australia last year, but this was just the tip of the iceberg.

Fiona Hartigan, inset, and the mysterious photo she took at Chipping Norton on Sunday.