# Emergency Belly Landing at Newcastle Airport: Plane Successfully Lands Without Landing Gear



On Monday morning, a light plane, Eastern Air Services flight XDV, was forced to make an emergency belly landing at Newcastle Airport in New South Wales after its landing gear failed to deploy. The plane, piloted by Peter Schott, had taken off at 8:30 AM for a brief 26-minute flight from Newcastle to Port Macquarie but encountered mechanical issues shortly after takeoff.

Pilot Peter Schott, 53, decided to circle the airport for nearly four hours to burn off fuel, aiming for a safer landing condition amidst challenging rain and limited visibility. The conditions necessitated a wheels-up, belly-first landing, which occurred at 12:19 PM without causing injury to anyone on board.

The incident, involving a Beech B200 Super King Air plane, was witnessed by hundreds of onlookers, and Mr. Schott's handling of the situation earned the applause of passengers Michael Reynolds and his wife Ines, as well as public commendation from NSW Police Superintendent Wayne Humphrey for its textbook execution.

The Reynoldses, who were celebrating Michael's 60th birthday, expressed relief and gratitude post-landing, having prepared for the worst during the ordeal. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating the incident. Following a 24-hour airport closure for initial investigations, normal operations resumed. Emergency services and an operations room were prepared by local authorities, who also monitored the landing closely.