

6 May 2002

Immediate Use

## SEARCHES FOR MISSING GYROCOPTER PILOT AND FISHERMAN

Australian Search and Rescue (AusSAR) is coordinating a large search for the pilot of a gyrocopter last seen at about 3.15 pm (AEST) on Saturday near the Queensland town of Gayndah.

Eleven aircraft including 10 helicopters are searching a 726 square nautical mile region around Gayndah, 70 kms west of Bundaberg.

A search by three helicopters and ground parties yesterday in the rugged and hilly terrain around Gayndah failed to find any trace of the aircraft.

It is believed the pilot was planning a scenic flight of some 30 to 60 minutes.

Australian Search and Rescue is appealing to the public in the Gayndah region for information on the gyrocopter's possible flightpath. The distinctive aircraft has a propeller and helicopter rotor blades.

Members of the public with information can phone AusSAR on: **1800 815 257**

The weather in the region is reported as being good for searching.

Meanwhile, seven fixed wing aircraft and a Customs Coastwatch helicopter are searching for a dory fisherman missing on the outer Great Barrier Reef since Saturday some 40 nautical miles off Cape Grenville north east of Lockhart River.

Further information on the gyrocopter:

Ben Mitchell                      0418 164 901

Further information on the Cape Grenville search:

David Gray                        0418 487 794

