

AUSTRALIAN SAYS NEW ANALYSIS BACKS SEARCH AREA FOR FLIGHT 370

News / Airlines



Australian authorities said Thursday that new analysis confirms they've likely been searching in the right place for a missing Malaysian airliner.

Searchers have been combing a 120,000-square-kilometer (46,000-square-mile) part of the Indian Ocean since last year but have yet to turn up any trace of Flight 370. A wing flap was found in July washed up on remote Reunion Island.

The new analysis by an agency of the Defence Department confirmed "the highest probability" the final resting place for the plane is within the current search area, the government said in a statement.

Details of the report by the Defence Science and Technology Group will be released later Thursday by Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Assistant Defense Minister Darren Chester.

The Boeing 777 vanished with 239 people aboard on March 8, 2014, during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. Authorities are baffled by how and why it disappeared.

The current seabed search more than 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) southwest of Australia began in October last year. Ships using side-scan sonar and an underwater drone fitted with a video

camera have so far scoured more than 70,000 square kilometers (27,000 square miles) of rugged terrain.

The search area is based on analysis of scant satellite information that tracked the final hours of Flight 370's flight.

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