

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

15 miles north-east of Coonamble, New South Wales	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 580 feet	Date 6.8.69	Time (Local) 0930	Zone EST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Type and Model Piper PA25-235	Registration VH-PIR	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 4.2.65	Valid to 3.2.74
Registered Owner West Air Aviation Pty. Ltd., Coonabarabran, NSW	Operator West Air Aviation Pty. Ltd., Coonabarabran, NSW	Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged Power Transmission Lines		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point "Lumley" Agriculture Strip	Time of departure 0930	Next point of intended landing Departure Point	Purpose of flight Agricultural Survey	Class of operation Aerial Work
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4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Leroy Alan STALEY	Pilot	32	Commercial	584 hours	3153 hours	Serious

5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
Air Navigation Regulation 133(2)(b)	The aircraft was flown at a lower height than 500 feet.

7. RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft had been flown on the morning of the accident from Coonabarabran to the agricultural strip at "Lumley", near Coonamble, to engage in spraying operations.

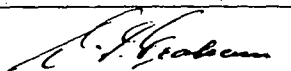
Finding that the loader had not arrived, the pilot decided to take off and look for the vehicle with the object of directing the driver to the strip. At about this time the driver was entering the "Lumley" property and the pilot flew low over the loader in the direction of the airstrip. He did not see the power transmission lines across the flight path of the aircraft at a height of some 30 feet above the ground until the aircraft was about to strike them.

The aircraft contacted the wires with the main undercarriage, decelerated and struck the ground with the nose and right wing before coming to rest inverted. Fire broke out immediately on ground impact but the pilot was able to evacuate the aircraft before it was destroyed by fire.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot flew the aircraft at an unsafe height.

Report approved



(D.S. GRAHAM)

Designation  
Assistant Director-General  
(Air Safety Investigation)

Date  
15.4.70