

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902532**

Cessna A185E

12 January 1989

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198902532 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Maitland NSW

Date: 12 January 1989 **Time:** 1535

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Cessna A185E

Registration: VH-RKZ

Serial Number: 185-1392

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Maitland NSW

Departure Time: 1525

Destination: Maitland NSW

Approved for Release: 24th November 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was carrying out circuits and landings. Following a touch-and-go landing, the pilot had just reduced power at about 200 feet above ground level when the engine failed completely. The pilot turned the aircraft back towards the runway. After completing the turn, he realised he was too high and fast, with a 15 knot tailwind, to land on the runway. Sighting a paddock to his left, he made another turn back into wind toward it. The aircraft sank heavily onto the ground inside the aerodrome boundary, ran through a fence, and bounced back into the air. It then passed underneath a set of power lines, floated across the New England Highway and a second fence, and landed in the paddock, coming to rest some 365 metres from the initial touchdown marks. No fault was found with the aircraft engine or systems. The aircraft had carried sufficient but minimum fuel for the flight and it was considered that during manouevring a tank outlet may have become uncovered, resulting in fuel starvation to the engine.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Probable fuel starvation due to uncovering of tank outlet.
2. The pilot misjudged his approach during ensuing forced landing.