

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198101486**

Aerospatiale SA-341G

11 October 1981

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 198101486 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Warrumbungle National Park NSW

Date: 11 October 1981 **Time:** 640

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	1	2	0	0
Total	1	3	0	0

Aircraft Details: Aerospatiale SA-341G

Registration: VH-WLS

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Inspection of Wildlife

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Canyon Camp NSW

Departure Time: 0640

Destination: Coonabarrabran NSW

Approved for Release: 22nd May, 1985

Circumstances:

During a wallaby habitat survey of Bluff Mountain the aircraft entered severe turbulence and strong downdrafts. The pilot applied maximum power to avoid impact with the ground and the engine turbine failed. The aircraft entered trees, nosed over and caught fire. The forecast wind speed was 15 to 20 knots and the actual speed was generally close to this. The encounter with the turbulence and downdraft was sudden and unexpected and resulted in the pilot having to use all available engine power in order to regain control. The engine turbine temperature limits were exceeded, leading to the failure of the turbine.