

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800128**

Piper PA25-235

27 July 1988

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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: 198800128 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 50 km west of Wubin WA

Date: 27 July 1988 **Time:** 1530 WST

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA25-235

Registration: VH-WBN

Serial Number: 25-3175

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: 50 km west of Wubin WA

Departure Time: 1530

Destination: Wubin via a spraying task

Approved for Release: November 9th 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot had earlier landed in the paddock which was adjacent to the homestead to seek assistance regarding a broken down vehicle being used in the spraying task. Prior to commencing the takeoff run the pilot did not inspect the proposed takeoff path. Initially the aircraft takeoff run acceleration was more sluggish than normal, due to the traversing of patches of soft wet ground. Acceleration improved. However, the aircraft was approaching some trees so the pilot turned it to provide a greater ground roll distance. The aircraft became airborne for a short time, but then touched down in long wet grass which degraded its acceleration. It then hit a fence and nosed over.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. Prior to the attempted takeoff the pilot did not inspect the proposed takeoff path nor did he refer to flight manual performance charts to ensure that adequate distance was available.
2. Although he encountered reduced performance during the takeoff roll the pilot did not abort the takeoff attempt.