

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198900231**

Cessna 172N

1 February 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: 198900231 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 10km north-east of Willowie SA

Date: 1 February 1989 **Time:** 1530

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: Cessna 172N

Registration: VH-IGD

Serial Number: 17270440

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Jamestown SA

Departure Time: 1500

Destination: 10km north-east Willowie
SA

Approved for Release: 13 April 1989

Circumstances:

Information provided by the pilot indicated he had planned to land the aircraft in a paddock used by crop dusting aircraft. He contacted the owner of the paddock and determined that it met the requirements for his aircraft. The pilot was advised that a set of powerlines crossed the approach end of the paddock and he requested the owner to park his car underneath these powerlines to mark their location. When the pilot arrived over the strip a car was parked near the approach end where the pilot thought the powerlines were and he assumed the owner had acted on his request. After carrying out an Authorized Landing Area inspection during which he did not sight the powerlines the pilot made a normal approach. He kept well clear of the car but the aircraft collided with the powerlines on late final approach and touched down heavily. Information provided indicated that the owner of the paddock had parked his car more than 20 metres downwind of the powerlines for reasons which were not determined and this had given the pilot the wrong impression of their location. This accident was not the subject of an on scene investigation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The owner of the property parked his vehicle in a position which gave the pilot a false impression of the location of known powerlines.
2. The pilot did not see and was therefore unable to avoid the powerlines across the approach path.