

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199400362**

**Rutan Aircraft Factory
Rutan long-ez**

12 February 1994

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199400362 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Oakey
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 12 February 1994
Time: 1300 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Manufacturer: Rutan Aircraft Factory
Aircraft Model: LONG-EZ
Aircraft Registration: VH-MJL **Serial Number:** Q32
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Practice
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Oakey QLD
Departure Time: 1255 EST
Destination: Oakey QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	1450.0	1550

Approved for Release: Tuesday, June 28, 1994

The pilot was having a dam constructed on his property which is adjacent to the Oakey airfield. Witnesses working on the dam site reported that the pilot had indicated that he would conduct a low fly-past over the dam after taking off from Oakey.

The aircraft was observed to fly at low level across the dam and commence a climb before striking powerlines located on the property. After the mainwheels contacted the wires the aircraft impacted the ground inverted. The pilot received fatal injuries.