

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198802366**

De Havilland DCH-2 Beaver

14 May 1988

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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: 198802366 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Koala (35 km SSE of Cowra) NSW
Date: 14 May 1988 **Time:** 0930 Approx
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: De Havilland DCH-2
Beaver
Registration: VH-BSC
Serial Number: 1617
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Koala NSW
Departure Time: 0930 Approx
Destination: Koala NSW

Approved for Release: 15 February 1989

Circumstances:

During the first takeoff of the day the pilot dumped the load of superphosphate when he assessed that the aircraft would not become safely airborne before reaching the end of the strip. The aircraft's tail struck rocks beyond the end of the strip but the pilot was able to continue the flight and then return to the strip and land without further incident. 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 aircraft load was excessive for the strip length and the ambient conditions.
2. The pilot dumped the load at too late a stage to safely continue the takeoff.