

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702387**

Schempp-Hirth Cirrus 75

23 February 1987

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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: 198702387

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 14 km NW Gulgong NSW

Date: 23 February 1987

Time: 1409

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Schempp-Hirth Cirrus 75

Registration: VH-IIZ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Gliding)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Gulgong NSW

Departure Time: 1409

Destination: Gulgong NSW

Approved for Release: 16 July 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot, who was an experienced glider pilot and instructor, was taking part in a gliding competition. Only 2 of the 12 competitors were able to complete the exercise, the remainder being required to outland. Almost 4 hours after being launched, the aircraft was sighted in a right hand circling descent, apparently being manoeuvred for an outlanding. At low level, the angle of bank was seen to suddenly increase and the nose dropped. The right wing struck the ground and the aircraft cartwheeled before coming to rest about 34 metres from the point of initial impact. It was evident that the aircraft had entered an incipient spin at too low a height above the ground to enable the pilot to recover control of the aircraft. The reason for the loss of control could not be determined.