

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198801402**

Rolladen-Schneider LS4

29 October 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.

This accident was not the subject of an on site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198801402 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 12 km SE of Benalla VIC
Date: 29 October 1988 **Time:** 1400
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Rolladen-Schneider LS4
Registration: VH-CQL
Serial Number: 4037
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Benalla VIC
Departure Time: 1305
Destination: Benalla VIC

Approved for Release: 9/02/1989

Circumstances:

When the pilot was about 600 feet above the ground he realized that he was committed to an outlanding. He noted that the selected paddock had one set of powerlines parallelling his intended landing direction. On short final at about 100 feet above ground level the pilot saw a second powerline obliquely crossing the intended landing path. He turned right and carried out a landing in another paddock. The glider landed downwind and the pilot initiated a groundloop in an attempt to avoid a collision with a fence. The manoeuvre was not successful and the glider came to rest straddling the fence. The pilot had evidently delayed his planning for an outlanding until the glider was substantially below the minimum height of 2000 feet recommended by the Gliding Federation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot delayed planning for an outlanding until the glider was below the recommended height of 2000 feet.
2. The pilot did not see a conflicting powerline until close to the ground.
3. The pilot had to change his intended landing area when at a very low height.
4. The landing roll was converging with a fence which the pilot was unable to avoid.