

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198500155**

Piper PA18 Supercub

2 December 1985

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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: 198500155 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Boolardy Homestead 150km WSW of Meekatharra WA
Date: 2 December 1985 **Time:** 515
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: Piper PA18 Supercub
Registration: VH-CPI
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private-Sheep mustering
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Boolardy Homestead WA
Departure Time: 0515
Destination: Boolardy Homestead WA

Approved for Release: April 28th 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot was engaged in sheep mustering. The aircraft was being flown at 200 feet agl, and about three minutes after the fuel tank selection was changed , the engine lost power. The pilot selected the other fuel tank but the engine did not respond. The aircraft touched down heavily on unsuitable terrain and the main gear collapsed. No defect was found with the engine and 55 litres of fuel was drained from the fuel system following the accident. It is considered probable that the loss of power resulted from fuel starvation caused by the pilot inadvertently turning the fuel selector beyond the correct position. An inspection of the fuel selector valve found that it had been incorrectly assembled. This resulted in there being no effective detent to indicate that the selector had been correctly positioned. Also it was found that if the selector was positioned slightly beyond the required position, fuel flow was considerably restricted.