

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701423**

Sia Marchetti SF260

24 January 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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198701423

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 7 km ESE Yabba North VIC

Date: 24 January 1987

Time: 1624

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	0	3

Aircraft Details: Sia Marchetti SF260

Registration: VH-ARV

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: 7 km ESE Yabba North VIC

Departure Time: 1624

Destination: Benalla VIC

Approved for Release: May 12th 1987

Circumstances:

At a height of about 100 feet after takeoff, the engine faltered briefly. It then returned to full power, but the pilot decided to conduct a low level circuit and land in order to investigate the apparent anomaly. On the downwind leg the engine stopped and the pilot was committed to a wheels-up landing in a paddock. Shortly before touchdown engine power was regained and the propeller contacted the ground under almost full power. The pilot later advised that he had inadvertently selected an almost empty fuel tank prior to takeoff. He had not checked the fuel selector when the first loss of power was noticed, because he had been convinced that he had selected the correct tank.