

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502567

Piper Aerostar 601

26 November 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: 198502567 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: "Gumma", 6 km East Macksville NSW
Date: 26 November 1985 **Time:** 1745
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 Aerostar 601
Registration: VH-CUO
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Charter (Cargo Operations)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: "Gumma" NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Sydney NSW

Approved for Release: 23rd January 1986

Circumstances:

During the take-off roll the right mainwheel entered an area of soft sand and sank to a depth of 230 mm. The resultant loads applied to the scissor link caused it to fail and the wheel swivelled through 180 degrees. This in turn produced flexing of the gear leg, the downlock disengaged, and the leg collapsed. The aircraft swerved to the right and came to rest just outside the flight strip. The pilot and the operating company were aware that soft areas were present on the strip. The pilot had landed and departed again during the morning without undue problems, and had made an uneventful landing shortly before this particular take-off attempt. However, on this occasion wind conditions dictated a take-off in the opposite direction to that employed earlier in the day and a soft area was encountered at a speed of about 50 knots.