

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198400059**

Winton Grasshopper

21 January 1984

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 198400059 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Farnborough Beach, 11 km N of Yeppoon QLD

Date: 21 January 1984 **Time:** 1705

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: Winton Grasshopper

Registration: Not Reg

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Sport Aviation

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Farnborough Beach QLD

Departure Time: 1705

Destination: Farnborough Beach QLD

Approved for Release: 27th September 1984

Circumstances:

This flight was to be the pilot's first flight in a minimum aircraft. He was briefed to carry out a take-off and landing along the beach. When the aircraft became airborne a left bank was adopted and right rudder was used to attempt to regain directional control. As speed was increased directional control was achieved but oncoming obstructions made further manoeuvring necessary. After starting to climb, directional control was lost. The aircraft crashed into trees and caught fire. The pilot mentioned to his rescuers that the ailerons had been inoperative. The pilot later succumbed to his injuries in hospital. Investigation of the apparent aileron failure was hampered by the degree of fire damage to the aircraft. This damage was a result of the inability of the plastic fuel tank to withstand the impact with the ground. The precise cause of the accident remains undetermined.