

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803439**

Eirivion Pik 20D

13 March 1988

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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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: 198803439

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Boonah QLD

Date: 13 March 1988

Time: 1110

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: Eiriavion Pik 20D

Registration: VH-WVA

Serial Number: 20572

Operation Type: Private (Gliding)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Boonah QLD

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Boonah QLD

Approved for Release: 29/07/1988

Circumstances:

The glider was being towed by a tug aircraft for launch. During the early part of the take-off roll, the wing-man released the left wing and the wing dropped to the ground. The pilot was unable to regain the wings level attitude due to the lack of control effectiveness at low airspeed. The glider veered to the left of the flight strip as the glider pilot released the tow from the tug. The pilot could not avoid a collision with a strainer post in the boundary fence.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident:

1. Premature release of the left wing by one of the ground handling crew.
2. The pilot persisted with attempts to raise the wing beyond the point where the take-off run could be safely abandoned.