

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902552**

De Havilland DHC2

4 May 1989

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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: 198902552 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: "Woodend" 15 Km East of Cooma NSW
Date: 4 May 1989 **Time:** 915
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: De Havilland DHC2
Registration: VH-IDR
Serial Number: 324
Operation Type: Aerial Work - Agriculture
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: "Woodend" NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: "Woodend" NSW

Approved for Release: June 28th 1989

Circumstances:

The aircraft was engaged in spreading gypsum on pasture. The pilot reported that during the third take-off run of the morning, the engine failed just prior to lift off. The fuel selector was positioned to the rear fuel tank and there was insufficient time to select the front fuel tank and restore fuel supply to the engine. The pilot was unable to stop the aircraft and it ran through a fence and a deep ditch beyond the end of the strip, causing damage to the right wing, right undercarriage and tailplane. The pilot reported that the aircraft had been refuelled the night before by other persons, but not to full tanks. The fuel gauges were inaccurate and the rear tank had actually been almost empty. In addition, the audible low fuel warning was not operational. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Inadequate pre-flight inspection.
2. Inaccurate fuel gauges.
3. Unserviceable low fuel warning.
4. Fuel starvation.