

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198102560**

Britten-Norman BN2-A8 Islander

13 January 1988

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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: 198102560 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 30 km NE of Rockhampton QLD
Date: 13 January 1988 **Time:** 1039
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: Britten-Norman BN2-A8
Islander
Registration: VH-SLM
Serial Number: 112
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: Marble Island QLD
Departure Time: 1000
Destination: Rockhampton QLD

Approved for Release: 16 August 1988

Circumstances:

This flight was the last of a multi-stage flight from Rockhampton. A dip stick was used to determine the quantity of fuel on the aircraft prior to refuelling for the flight. One tank was again checked after refuelling and the pilot was satisfied that sufficient fuel was carried. He was in the habit of disregarding the fuel gauges as being inaccurate. Both engines subsequently failed towards the end of the flight, however, the pilot was able to carry out a successful forced landing on a nearby strip. An inspection of the aircraft fuel system revealed that only unuseable fuel remained in the aircraft fuel tanks. A fuel system calibration showed that the gauges were accurate and that the dip stick was over-reading by about 15 US gallons (57 litres). This resulted in the fuel onboard being insufficient to complete the flight. The dip stick had been with the aircraft when it was imported some six years earlier.