

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198703526**

**Grumman American Aviation G44A
Widgeon**

14 December 1987

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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: 198703526 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Daintree, 74km NW of Cairns QLD
Date: 14 December 1987 **Time:** 1412
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	1	2

Aircraft Details: Grumman American
Aviation G44A Widgeon
Registration: VH-WET
Serial Number: 1466
Operation Type: Charter(Passenger)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Cairns QLD
Departure Time: 1341
Destination: Hope Island QLD

Approved for Release: March 4th 1988

Circumstances:

Two photographers chartered the aircraft to fly them to a white tropical beach. Enroute to Hope Island, the passengers asked the pilot to land near a beach at the mouth of the Daintree River. After making a water landing on the river, the pilot found that he could not get his passengers and their photographic equipment to the shore because the hull of the aircraft grounded on a sandbank, some 50 Metres from the beach. A decision was then made to takeoff from the water and land on the beach. During the landing , the pilot lost control of the aircraft when one of the mainwheels ran through shallow water. The aircraft nosed over and came to rest inverted.