

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902537

Cessna A185-F

28 January 1989

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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.

This accident was not the subject of an on site investigation. Information about the occurrence was provided by the pilot.

Occurrence Number: 198902537 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Kanimbla Valley NSW
Date: 28 January 1989 **Time:** 1001
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: Cessna A185-F
Registration: VH-UJT
Serial Number: 18503282
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Kanimbla Valley NSW
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Kanimbla Valley NSW

Approved for Release: 6th July 1989

Circumstances:

The aircraft was taking off from a one-way agricultural strip during spreading operations. As the aircraft became airborne it suffered a complete loss of engine power. The pilot dumped the load and landed the aircraft on the strip remaining. During the landing roll the pilot was forced to swerve the aircraft onto an adjacent cleared area to avoid a gully beyond the strip end. At a low forward speed, the right main landing gear struck a stump. The aircraft groundlooped, collapsing the left main gear and damaging the outer left wing. No mechanical defect of the engine was found. Although vapour lock was suspected, the cause of the loss of power was not determined.

Significant Factors:

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

1. Unexplained loss of power during critical stage of take-off.
2. Intentional action by pilot-in-command to avoid unsuitable terrain.
3. Landing gear struck fixed object.