

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702405**

Auster J5-190

16 May 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: 198702405

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 3 km NNE of Greta NSW

Date: 16 May 1987

Time: 1620 apprx

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Auster J5-190

Registration: VH-SCO

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Luskintyre NSW

Departure Time: 1620 apprx

Destination: Luskintyre NSW

Approved for Release: 17/09/1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft was one of a group attending a vintage aircraft fly-in. It had been engaged on a photographic flight in company with another aircraft, in an area west of the Hunter River. During the return to the strip, the two aircraft became separated. The subject aircraft was observed to descend to a low height over the river, while apparently tracking for a right base leg position. It subsequently collided with powerlines and trees before falling to the ground about 1.5 kilometres from the strip. The powerlines consisted of three cables strung on individual poles. The span which crossed the river was about 645 metres in length, and the height of the cables at the point of collision was 35 metres above the river level. The weather at the time was fine, with no restrictions to visibility. However, the wires were difficult to see against the background, and the pilot had not been aware that there were any powerlines in the vicinity.