

Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198301342

PL 12 Airtruk

8 November 1983

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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: 198301342
Location: Caldwell NSW
Date: 8 November 1983
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1330

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

Aircraft Details: PL 12 Airtruk
Registration: VH-EVH
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Commercial - Aerial
Agriculture
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Caldwell NSW
Departure Time: 1330
Destination: "Base Camp" (5 km SW of
Caldwell)

Approved for Release: 3rd May 1985

Circumstances:

At about 300 feet agl on climb out, the pilot heard a loud bang and saw that the propeller had separated from the aircraft. He lowered the nose to regain airspeed but the aircraft descended steeply and landed heavily in a rice paddy. The engine crankshaft counterweights were found to be worn and detuned. The resulting vibrations were transferred to the propeller hub, which failed and released one of the blades. This type of detuning usually occurs as a result of large and rapid power variations, and as this aircraft was used for agricultural operations it is likely that the work requirements precipitated the failure.