Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198303444

Cessna 177 RG

8 October 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: 198303444 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 70 km NW of Kingston SE SA

Date: 8 October 1983 **Time:** 0941

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	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: Cessna 177 RG

Registration: VH-IRO

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Non-Commercial - Pleasure

Damage Level: Substantial **Departure Point:** Parafield SA

Departure Time: 815 **Destination:** Robe SA

Approved for Release: 3rd May 1985

Circumstances:

During cruise at about 1000 feet agl the engine began to run roughly and the pilot observed falling oil pressure indications. A severe engine vibration then developed and the pilot, after selecting a suitable forced landing area, shut down the engine. He delayed lowering the landing gear until he was satisfied that the selected area had a firm surface. The gear was selected down on very late final, but only the nose gear had time to become partially extended before touchdown. Lack of sufficient tension of a nut securing a conrod bolt of Number 1 cylinder allowed the conrod bearing cap to loosen causing loss of oil pressure and subsequent engine failure.