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Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198800702

Lake LA4-200

29 January 1988

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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.

The accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198800702 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Mypolonga SA

Date: 29 January 1988 **Time:** 1845

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: Lake LA4-200 **Registration:** VH-BDK **Serial Number:** 773

Serial Number: 773
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Mypolonga SA

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Murray Bridge SA

Approved for Release: 1 November 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot was taxiing along the river at a speed of about 35 knots. At the end of the taxi run he initiated a turn to line up for take-off by applying full power and left rudder while holding the control column back. As the aircraft began to turn, the pilot sensed that the aircraft felt unusual. He closed the throttle, and noticed that the left pontoon float had separated from the wing and was being dragged by the fuel line. The water rudder was lowered and the pilot steered the aircraft towards the bank of the river. However, while concentrating on the left wing, the pilot did not notice that the right wing had insufficient clearance from trees on the river bank, and a collision ensued.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

- 1. The pilot had limited experience on the aircraft type.
- 2. A water turn was commenced at a speed which imposed excessive loads on the pontoon float.
- 3. While manoeuvring to park the aircraft, the pilot did not notice that the aircraft was about to collide with trees.