**Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198802356** 

Cessna 210 L

14 April 1988

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Occurrence Number: 198802356 Occurrence Type: Accident

**Location:** 4 km NW of Nyngan NSW

**Date:** 14 April 1988 **Time:** 2237

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:** 

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	3	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Cessna 210 L
Registration: VH-PQU
Serial Number: 21060122
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Nyngan NSW
Departure Time: 2232 approx
Destination: Cowra NSW

Approved for Release: 21 October 1988

## **Circumstances:**

The pilot and three passengers had flown to Nyngan earlier in the evening and had spent about 4 hours on the ground with the owner of a nearby property. Some of the time on the ground was spent at 2 hotels in the township, where alcoholic beverages were consumed by all members of the group. After take off for the return flight, the aircraft flew to the property, where it was observed to pass low over the homestead. The lights of the aircraft disappeared soon after and the sound of a ground impact was heard. The wreckage was discovered about 4 hours later. The aircraft had initially collided with a tree and then rolled inverted and dived into the ground at high speed. The evidence indicated that the pilot was attempting a deliberate low pass over the homestead. During this manoeuvre, he apparently misjudged the height of the aircraft above the ground. A detailed examination of the aircraft did not reveal any mechanical defect which could have contributed to this occurrence. The engine was delivering high power at the time of impact with the ground. A toxicological examination of blood samples taken from the pilot revealed a concentration of blood alcohol, which medical opinion concluded would have adversely affected his rational judgement and manipulative skills.

## **Significant Factors:**

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

- 1. The pilot did not comply with the provisions of Air Navigation Regulation 247, with regard to the consumption of alcohol before flight.
- 2. The pilot attempted a low level manoeuvre at night during which he evidently misjudged the height of the aircraft above the ground.

3. The pilot suffered from alcoholic impairment of efficiency and judgement.