

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199000584**

**Cessna 172-B**

**30 April 1990**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199000584  
**Location:** 60 kms ENE Wilcannia NSW  
**Date:** 30 April 1990  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Time:** 1500

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Cessna 172-B  
**Registration:** VH-AAC  
**Serial Number:** 17249203  
**Operation Type:** Private  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Kallara Station NSW  
**Departure Time:** 1400  
**Destination:** Kallara Station NSW

**Approved for Release:** 5th June 1990

#### **Circumstances:**

The pilot was spotting for sheep in advance of rising flood waters. He landed the aircraft in a paddock to assist a truck driver to unload sheep from the truck. He used the driest part of the paddock, near the tree line, where vehicles and motor bikes had been operating. Before departing, the pilot taxied to the touch-down point and commenced the take-off over the same area used for landing. Once the aircraft passed the end of the landing roll section, the ground became softer, the nosewheel dug in and the aircraft veered to the right. The nose gear broke off and both propeller blade tips hit the ground. The right wing tip struck a one metre high acacia tree while the aircraft continued to slide for about a further 50 metres.

#### **Significant Factors:**

The following factor was considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The soft surface was not detected in the pilot's survey of the area selected for landing.