# Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198803499

## Cessna 185-C

## 18 November 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.**

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

**Occurrence Number:** 198803499 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
**Location:** Palm Island QLD
**Date:** 18 November 1988 **Time:** 642
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil
**Injuries:**

| | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crew | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ground | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Passenger | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| **Total** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **5** |

**Aircraft Details:** Cessna 185-C
**Registration:** VH-CMW
**Serial Number:** 185-0678
**Operation Type:** Charter
**Damage Level:** Substantial
**Departure Point:** Ingham QLD
**Departure Time:** 0625
**Destination:** Palm Island QLD

**Approved for Release:** June 27th 1989

**Circumstances:**

At about 50 knots during the landing roll, the pilot discovered that the right wheel brake had failed. The aircraft had swerved to the left when both brakes had been applied. With the rudder control ineffective at low speed, the pilot intentionally ground looped the aircraft to avoid running into the perimeter drainage ditch. The right main gear collapsed and the right wing was damaged as a result of the ground loop. Examination of the right brake unit revealed that the master cylinder was corroded internally, allowing brake fluid to bypass the seal.

**Significant Factors:**

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Internal corrosion of brake Master cylinder allowed brake fluid to bypass a seal.

2. Right brake failed during the landing roll.

3. The pilot intentionally ground looped the aircraft to avoid a drainage ditch.