

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803438**

Rockwell S2R

8 March 1988

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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 subjected to an on site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198803438 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Emerald Qld
Date: 8 March 1988 **Time:** 1330
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Rockwell S2R
Registration: VH-SYQ
Serial Number: 1903-R
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Aerial Spraying)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Emerald Qld
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Emerald Qld

Approved for Release: February 22nd 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was carrying out a spray run near the edge of a cotton crop. He was aware of a powerline crossing his intended flight path and had originally intended to fly over the powerline. At the commencement of the spray run he sighted the pole from which the wires were suspended. The pole was close to the edge of the crop, and assessing that there would be adequate clearance, the pilot decided to fly beneath the wires. However, as he neared the wires he lost sight of them due to poor background. The pilot descended the aircraft as close to the crop as possible in an attempt to sight the wires, and to gain maximum possible clearance. The wheels entered the crop and caused the aircraft to decelerate. The pilot was unable to prevent the aircraft from settling into the crop. The aircraft came to rest after tipping onto its nose and ground looping.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot changed his mind at a late stage, and decided to fly beneath the power lines rather than over them.
2. Poor contrast between wires and background.
3. Pilot misjudged the distance between the aircraft and the crop.
4. The wheels entered the crop, causing the aircraft to decelerate, and the pilot was unable to prevent it from settling into the crop.