

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198403563**

Mooney M20-F

24 April 1984

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198403563 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Warrigal Property, 67 km NW of Mildura VIC
Date: 24 April 1984 **Time:** 1450
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Mooney M20-F
Registration: VH-ERD
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Pleasure Flight
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Cobar NSW
Departure Time: 1450
Destination: Renmark SA

Approved for Release: 10th July, 1984

Circumstances:

The pilot intended refuelling at the previous landing point but he found that fuel was not available. After re-checking his fuel requirements he was satisfied that the flight could be accomplished with almost full reserves. The weather deteriorated and groundspeed reduced during the flight, causing the pilot to become concerned about flight visibility and fuel endurance. He elected to make a precautionary landing near a homestead but during the landing roll the aircraft ran through a fence and collided with a ditch. Although the pilot had lost time on earlier legs of the flight he made no similar allowance for the subject leg, nor did he divert to a suitable refuelling point. Having decided to carry out a precautionary landing, the pilot did not make a low-level inspection of the area. The approach to land was made downwind and the aircraft did not touch down until it was less than 220 metres from the end of the 2000 metre paddock selected.