

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198300066**

Cessna 310 L

24 October 1983

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 198300066

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Fletchers Awl QLD

Date: 24 October 1983

Time: 1108

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 310 L

Registration: VH-DTJ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private Business

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Rockhampton QLD

Departure Time: 919

Destination: Kenlogan QLD

Approved for Release: 5th March 1985

Circumstances:

The aircraft was being used to convey ABC staff from Rockhampton to Kenlogan Station in order to carry out filming of that and neighbouring properties as part of a planned television program. On arrival in the Kenlogan area the pilot was unable to locate the airstrip and after searching for about 30 minutes a diversion was made to Cumberland Downs (which is now known as Fletchers Awl). Witnesses on the ground at Fletchers Awl watched the aircraft as it arrived and made three circuits of the strip. The landing gear was observed to be extended during the third circuit. The witnesses lost sight of the aircraft as it passed behind rising ground. Shortly afterwards smoke was observed, and it was found that the aircraft had struck the ground about 800 metres short of the strip. A fierce fire had broken out and engulfed the wreckage. The geographical position of Kenlogan as depicted on the appropriate Aeronautical Chart was some 9 km east-south-east of the actual position. Whether this was known to the pilot before the flight could not be established. Examination of the wreckage was hampered because of the extensive fire damage. Although the engines were delivering little or no power at the time of impact, no defect or malfunction with the engines or airframe was found which might have contributed to the development of the occurrence. The cause of the accident remains undetermined.