

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198600135**

Cessna 172D

2 April 1986

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198600135 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 100km NNW of Meekatharra WA
Date: 2 April 1986 **Time:** 1600
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: Cessna 172D
Registration: VH-CBH
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Moorarie, 120km NW of
Meekatharra WA
Departure Time: 1430
Destination: Moorarie WA

Approved for Release: May 16th 1986

Circumstances:

After flying for about an hour the pilot noticed that the engine was running roughly. A magneto check was carried out and a dead cut detected on the left magneto. The pilot decided to land the aircraft on a nearby claypan but misjudged the approach and attempted a go-around. The engine failed to deliver full power and the aircraft struck trees before coming to a halt. The spark plugs were found to be heavily fouled with lead, carbon and oil deposits. Following the cleaning of the plugs a significant rpm drop was no longer present when the magnetos were tested. However, the required minimum static engine rpm could not be obtained and subsequent inspection of the engine revealed it to be in generally poor mechanical condition.