

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198900829**

Cessna 172

2 October 1989

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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: 198900829 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Mutooroo Homestead 72 Km South-West Broken Hill NSW
Date: 2 October 1989 **Time:** 1800
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	0	3

Aircraft Details: Cessna 172
Registration: VH-AFM
Serial Number: 172-36421
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Mutooroo Homestead SA
Departure Time: 1800
Destination: Mutooroo Homestead SA

Approved for Release: 7th November 1989

Circumstances:

The 700 metre long strip was covered with grass approximately 60 centrimetres long. Although the pilot had operated from the strip previously, on this occasion two passengers were carried. The pilot became concerned with the aircraft's rate of acceleration and decided to abort the takeoff. However, the aircraft overran the strip and the nose gear collapsed when it struck a log hidden in the long grass. This accident was not the subject of a formal on-scene investigation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The grass was too long for the safe operation of the aircraft.
2. The pilot selected an unsuitable area for the take-off.