

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198001364**

**Beech A36**

**24 June 1980**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198001364 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** "Noorooma" Station, 77 km North Brewarrina NSW

**Date:** 24 June 1980 **Time:** 1910

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:**

|              | Fatal    | Serious  | Minor    | None     |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crew         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        |
| Ground       | 0        | 0        | 0        | -        |
| Passenger    | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> |

**Aircraft Details:** Beech A36

**Registration:** VH-CSS

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Private Travel

**Damage Level:** Destroyed

**Departure Point:** Mitchell QLD

**Departure Time:** 1735

**Destination:** Bourke NSW

**Approved for Release:** 21st June 1985

**Circumstances:**

During a night flight engine failure appeared imminent and pilot elected to land in a clear area near a farmhouse. Weather conditions were reported to be fine with bright moonlight. After circling the area twice at low level the aircraft approached to land with the gear extended and landing lights on. The aircraft subsequently struck the ground in a steep nose down, right wing down attitude. As there was no runway lights installed at the departure aerodrome, the pilot had been anxious to begin the flight before last light. After he had submitted a flight plan he completed a preflight inspection of the aircraft but omitted to accurately determine that the fuel available was sufficient for the flight. Shortly after commencing descent to the destination airport the engine ran roughly and the pilot elected to land on a cleared area adjacent to homestead lights he could see below. The aircraft stalled on late final probably due to the pilot misjudging the landing flare.