

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602664**

Beech C35

5 September 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: 198602664
Location: 20 km West of Cheepie QLD
Date: 5 September 1986
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 930

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

Aircraft Details: Beech C35
Registration: VH-AKI
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private-Sheep spotting
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: 25km West of Cheepie QLD
Departure Time: 0930
Destination: 25km West of Cheepie QLD

Approved for Release: June 18th 1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft was being operated at between 500 feet and 1000 feet above ground level. The pilot was in frequent communication with motor cyclists on the ground. After about two and a half hours one of the motor cyclists observed the aircraft enter a shallow descent and a slight left turn. The aircraft continued in this attitude until the left wing struck a tree, it then rolled rapidly to the right before the right wing and nose struck the ground about 25 metres beyond the tree. An inspection of the aircraft did not reveal any faults which could have contributed to this occurrence. The pilot was recovering from an upper respiratory tract viral infection at the time of the accident. It is possible that his physical condition combined with the relatively high workload involved in sheep spotting caused a degradation in perception which resulted in an inadvertent loss of altitude.