

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198301287**

Piper PA 32 Lance

1 April 1983

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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: 198301287
Location: 3 km North of Lismore NSW
Date: 1 April 1983
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1110

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	5
Total	0	0	0	6

Aircraft Details: Piper PA 32 Lance
Registration: VH-EMD
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private Travel
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Schofields NSW
Departure Time: 1110
Destination: Coolangatta QLD

Approved for Release: 12th April, 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot decided to divert to a nearby aerodrome because the fuel gauges indicated a low fuel quantity remaining. Shortly after commencing the diversion the engine failed. During the ensuing forced landing the aircraft struck a fence post, overturned, and slid inverted for 120 metres. The engine had failed from fuel exhaustion. During the flight, which involved 3 landings, one refuelling and about 6 hours flight time, the pilot had not conducted a check of the aircraft fuel consumption. Although the fuel gauges indicated a higher than normal rate of consumption, the pilot did not land at suitable enroute aerodromes and the diversion was not made until a critical situation had developed. Subsequent examination of the engine and fuel system did not establish the cause of the excessive fuel consumption.