Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198903756

Piper PA28R-200

14 March 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: 198903756 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Fanning River Station, 65km SW Townsville QLD
Date: 14 March 1989 **Time:** 1500
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28R-200
Registration: VH-SLH
Serial Number: 28R-7135126
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Woodstock QLD
Departure Time: 1445
Destination: Fanning River Station QLD

Approved for Release: 9th August 1990

Circumstances:

On arrival at Fanning River the pilot lowered the landing gear and obtained an indication that the landing gear was locked down. The aircraft subsequently touched down on the mainwheels and shortly after the pilot lowered the nosewheel to the ground, the nosegear collapsed. The aircraft slid to a stop on the strip, in a nosedown attitude. An inspection of the aircraft revealed that the nosegear assembly showed signs of excessive freeplay. This resulted in an excessive load on the downlock bracket and its ultimate failure in overload during this landing. The strip surface was rough, consisting of sandy soil covered with tufts of grass. The nature of the surface probably contributed to the failure.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The strip surface was rough.

2. The nosegear assembly showed signs of excessive wear and had not been maintained adequately.