

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803459**

Piper PA 32-260

14 May 1988

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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: 198803459
Location: Alpha QLD
Date: 14 May 1988
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 0930

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	4

Aircraft Details: Piper PA 32-260
Registration: VH-PYD
Serial Number: 32-17
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Rockhampton QLD
Departure Time: 755
Destination: Alpha QLD

Approved for Release: 20/06/1988

Circumstances:

The pilot entered the circuit intending to land on the sealed north/south runway but noticed that the windsock seemed to be indicated an easterly wind of about 20 knots. He therefore decided to land on strip 07. As the pilot flared the aircraft he saw a white cross on the strip but elected to continue with the landing. Near the end of the landing roll the landing gear struck an ant hill and was torn from the aircraft. The strip used by the pilot had been decommissioned in September 1987, and was marked with a series of white crosses. All threshold and strip markers had been removed. An amendment to Aerodrome Diagrams, effective 7 April 1988, removed the strip from the particular diagram. The pilot was familiar with the aerodrome but had not landed there for almost 18 months. He did not check the relevant Aerodrome Diagram before landing and had not incorporated the April 7 amendment into his publication. The pilot said that he did not see any of the white crosses on the strip until he was about to touch down. The strip was covered with long grass. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.