

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701461**

Thruster Gemini

5 September 1987

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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: 198701461 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Sutherland Creek (11 km NW Lovely Banks) VIC
Date: 5 September 1987 **Time:** 1520
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Thruster Gemini
Registration: AUF 250020
Serial Number: N/A
Operation Type: Sport Aviation
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: 6 km NW Lovely Banks
VIC
Departure Time: 1515
Destination: 6 km NW Lovely Banks
VIC

Approved for Release: December 17th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot decided to inspect a nearby private landing strip which was sometimes used by ultralight pilots. Prior to departure he had obtained details about the strip, which included some information on powerlines in its immediate vicinity. Upon arrival, the pilot carried out both an area, and a strip inspection to identify the hazards. He then descended to about 25 feet to carry out an inspection of the surface of the strip. About half way along the strip the aircraft struck a powerline and impacted the ground inverted. The pilot extricated himself from the wreckage just before the aircraft was consumed by fire. The area assumed by the pilot to be a strip, was in fact an access taxiway to the strip which was bisected by a powerline. During the high level observation, the pilot satisfied himself that he had identified the powerlines, however, the subject powerline escaped his attention. Although he obtained some information on the strip before departing, the pilot did not seek a detailed briefing considered necessary for flight at such a low height above an unfamiliar area.