

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602371**

Gemini Thruster

10 August 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: 198602371

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 24 km WNW Bathurst NSW

Date: 10 August 1986

Time: N/K

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Gemini Thruster

Registration: Not Registered

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Miscellaneous (Sport
Aviation)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: "Arion" Station NSW

Departure Time: N/K

Destination: "Arion" Station NSW

Approved for Release: November 19th 1986

Circumstances:

The aircraft was being used to assess the effects of recent heavy rain and associated flooding in the area. The wreckage of the aircraft was found several hours after DEPARTURE, directly below an array of power lines which spanned a river valley. The aircraft had collided with the lines at about 265 feet above ground level, before striking the ground in a vertically nosedown attitude. It was determined that the pilot had flown in the vicinity of the power lines on numerous occasions. Where the lines crossed the river, the distance between the supporting towers was 934 metres. Hazard markers were attached to the lines, but they were small and inconspicuous. It was likely that on this flight, the pilot had been directing his attention to the flood damage, and had overlooked the presence of the wires.