

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198903820**

**Piper PA28-151**

**17 November 1989**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198903820                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Emu Plains, 5km North-East of Bonshaw QLD  
**Date:** 17 November 1989                      **Time:** 745  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA28-151  
**Registration:** VH-SVY  
**Serial Number:** 28-7615191  
**Operation Type:** Charter  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Emu Plains QLD  
**Departure Time:** N/A  
**Destination:** Bonshaw NSW

**Approved for Release:** 20th December 1989

**Circumstances:**

On a flight from Coolangatta to Bonshaw, the pilot identified the Authorised Landing Area (ALA) by spotting a white utility vehicle which he had been assured would be waiting for him. After he landed he found this was not the ALA he had been looking for. After obtaining new directions from the driver of the utility, he inspected the paddock by driving the vehicle the full 1000m length available. During the subsequent takeoff the aircraft had accelerated to about 45 knots, when it encountered some undulations. This retarded its progress, but the pilot forced it into the air in ground effect. The aircraft did not accelerate further in the nose high attitude and sank back onto the ground. It overran the takeoff area and struck a boundary fence. Apparently the pilot had used two stages of flap for the takeoff attempt and had not availed himself of options to use a more suitable takeoff direction or off-load his passengers. His original destination was only a short distance away to the south-west.