

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199800002**

**Maule Aircraft Corp
Maule**

05 January 1998

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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: 199800002 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Lady Musgrave Island
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 05 January 1998
Time: 1700 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Maule Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: M-7-235
Aircraft Registration: VH-JLU **Serial Number:** 4070C
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Lady Musgrave Lagoon Qld
Departure Time: 1630 EST
Destination: Bundaberg Qld

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	530.0	2157

Approved for Release: Wednesday, January 28, 1998

The pilot reported that while taking off from Lady Musgrave lagoon, just after the aircraft became airborne, a gust of wind caused the right wing to drop. The wing contacted the water surface and the aircraft cartwheeled to the right. The windscreen was shattered and the cockpit filled with water immediately. The aircraft came to rest inverted under the floats in approximately 8 metres of water. The rear seat passengers egressed safely from the right side of the aircraft with cuts and bruises. The pilots door was jammed but the pilot kicked out the side window and egressed with the front seat passenger from the left side of the aircraft. The aircraft was eventually washed onto the reef and destroyed by wave and tide action. An attempt to salvage the aircraft was unsuccessful.

The pilot reported that the wind at the time was a 20-25 knot south-easterly, the general weather was squally conditions with wind gusts to 30 knots, and the sea state was choppy with waves to one metre.

