

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199804628**

**Piper Aircraft Corporation, Santa  
Maria Division  
Aerostar**

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

**Occurrence Number:** 199804628                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Coonabarabran, Aerodrome  
**State:** NSW                      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Tuesday 27 October 1998  
**Time:** 1715 hours                      **Time Zone**                      ESuT  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Piper Aircraft Corporation, Santa Maria Division  
**Aircraft Model:** 600A  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-HMV                      **Serial Number:** 60-0685-7961215  
**Type of Operation:** Charter                      Cargo  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Coonamble NSW  
**Departure Time:** 1700 ESuT  
**Destination:** Coonabarabran NSW

**Approved for Release:** Tuesday, July 20, 1999

The pilot landed the Piper Aerostar with the landing gear in the retracted position.

Investigation of the landing gear retraction and extension system, by the operator, failed to identify a problem. The aircraft sustained damage to the propellers, lower fuselage, landing gear doors and lower rudder. Repairs to these areas have been carried out and full retraction tests performed without fault. The aircraft was then returned to service.

During the investigation, the pilot reported that when the landing gear was selected down, it did not extend. The pilot later reported to the company that she did not hear the landing gear warning horn, did not confirm that the landing gear was down prior to the landing and did not complete the pre-landing checklist.

The company, in consultation with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, has instituted a revised check program for its flight crews in response to this accident.

