

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199700834**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
T188C/A2**

15 March 1997

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199700834 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 10km W Moree, Aerodrome
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 15 March 1997
Time: 1030 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company
Aircraft Model: T188C/A2
Aircraft Registration: VH-MQR **Serial Number:** T18803726T
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture - Other
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Beela NSW
Departure Time: 1015 ESuT
Destination: Beela NSW

Approved for Release: Wednesday, May 21, 1997

The pilot was carrying out spraying operations and had already spread two hopper loads of spray medium onto a cotton crop. Weather conditions were fine with clear skies and light winds from the north-north-east. The hopper was again filled and two swathe runs were completed. The pilot reported that on the third swathe run, he left the pull-up manoeuvre to clear trees too late and the aircraft's propeller collided with branches.

The aircraft initially gained about 100 ft following the collision, however, it then commenced to lose height. The pilot quickly realised that the impact had caused damage resulting in a loss of power and/or thrust. In an attempt to improve the aircraft's climb performance, he selected the dump valve to the fully open position and jettisoned the remaining hopper contents. This action failed to arrest the sink rate of the aircraft and it subsequently stalled into trees and collided with the ground. Whilst the pilot escaped with minor bruising, the aircraft was consumed by fire.