

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199701208**

**Helio Aircraft Corp
H-295**

31 March 1997

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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 Executive Director 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.

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: 199701208 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 41km S Moruya
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 31 March 1997
Time: 1330 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Helio Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: H-295
Aircraft Registration: VH-KTY **Serial Number:** 1430
Type of Operation: Miscellaneous Other
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Tilba Lake, NSW
Departure Time: 1330 EST
Destination: Moruya NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	1000.0	6100

Approved for Release: Wednesday, June 4, 1997

The floatplane took-off from a coastal lake in strong gusting winds associated with passing squalls. As the aircraft approached the coast, and flew over the beach at low altitude, it descended until the left float struck the top of a wave. The aircraft nosed over into the ocean and began to sink. The pilot and passenger managed to evacuate the semi submerged aircraft without injury.

The pilot subsequently reported that, after taking off toward the south into the strong wind, he had to turn left at low altitude to avoid a small hill adjacent to the shore. The aircraft had then probably encountered windshear on the downwind side of the hill, which resulted in the unintended loss of altitude and subsequent contact with the water.