

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702167**

**Cessna Aircraft Company  
Agwagon**

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

**Occurrence Number:** 199702167      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 9km E Mindarie  
**State:** SA      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Saturday 31 May 1997  
**Time:** 1000 hours      **Time Zone:** CST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Cessna Aircraft Company  
**Aircraft Model:** A188/A1  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-KQB      **Serial Number:** 1880244  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Aerial Agriculture - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Mindarie SA  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Mindarie SA

**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	200.0	5300

**Approved for Release:** Thursday, August 7, 1997

The aircraft was being used to spread dressing on a property near Mindarie in South Australia. The land owner had not provided a map of the treatment area, instead, giving the pilot a preflight briefing that included drawing a diagram of the property with his heel on the ground. The property was located just to the north of a heavily wooded road running east to west. The property owner included the location of known powerlines in his briefing to the pilot.

The pilot began the job by performing the clean-up runs, filling in areas not suitable for the longer swath runs. He flew these runs primarily from the north-east. As he set up for the first swath run by flying east along the road before turning north to the property, the aircraft struck a powerline. The powerline was strung across the road to a derelict building.

The pilot reported that the powerline separated from a point near the disused building, and that approximately 30 m of line snapped back across the aircraft, damaging the left wing and aileron. The pilot landed the aircraft safely in an adjacent field.

The pilot reported that the owner had not advised him of the location of the powerline because the owner was not aware of its existence. He also reported that he did not consider the likelihood of a powerline in that location due to the rundown nature of the building to which it was connected.



