

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702394**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Chieftain**

24 July 1997

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 199702394 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Comet
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Thursday 24 July 1997
Time: 1715 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-31-350
Aircraft Registration: VH-RNC **Serial Number:** 31-7305026
Type of Operation: Charter Positioning
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Blackwater QLD
Departure Time: 1710 EST
Destination: Emerald QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	ATPL 1st Class	164.0	2170

Approved for Release: Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Sequence of Events

The pilot had completed a charter flight at Blackwater and was returning the aircraft to the company base at Emerald. Another company pilot, not endorsed on type, was the sole passenger.

Enroute to Emerald the pilot decided to do some low flying over a wheat crop. The aircraft struck a 3 phase power line about half way across the paddock. The aircraft was arrested by the wires and came to rest upright in a fallowed part of the paddock. No one was injured.