

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702674**

**Pilatus Aircraft Ltd
PC-12**

01 August 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:	199702674	Occurrence Type:	Incident
Location:	74km SSW Townsville, Aerodrome		
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Friday 01 August 1997		
Time:	1637 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Pilatus Aircraft Ltd		
Aircraft Model:	PC-12		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-FAM	Serial Number:	
Type of Operation:	Non-commercial Unknown		
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil		
Departure Point:	Townsville QLD		
Departure Time:	1620 EST		
Destination:	Charters Towers QLD		

Approved for Release: Tuesday, August 26, 1997

Summary:

The pilot had submitted a flight plan for the IFR flight at 7,000 ft. The aircraft was limited to 6,000 ft on departure, and this altitude, along with the departure time and the transponder code were mentioned in the co-ordination between the tower and sector controllers. The details read back by the sector controller included 7,000 ft as the altitude. This error was not detected by the tower controller. The pilot subsequently reported maintaining 6,000 ft when contacting the sector controller.

At no time was the altitude prefixed by "amended" or any such phrase to draw attention to the different altitude. Airservices Australia advice was that there is no requirement for the use of the term "amended" when the cleared level is different from the planned level. This incident is the subject of safety deficiency action to investigate the need for the use of the term "amended".