

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199703303**

**Cessna Aircraft Company  
Cessna Skyhawk**

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

**Occurrence Number:** 199703303                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Elrose Station  
**State:** QLD                                              **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Wednesday 19 March 1997  
**Time:** 1400 hours                                      **Time Zone** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Cessna Aircraft Company  
**Aircraft Model:** 172M  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-WTL                      **Serial Number:** 17263115  
**Type of Operation:** Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Elrose Station Qld  
**Departure Time:** 1400 EST  
**Destination:** Elrose Station Qld

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Private	357.8	358

**Approved for Release:** Tuesday, October 14, 1997

**Sequence of Events**

The pilot reported that the strip had received heavy rain during the previous week and that only 680 m of the 1,000 m length was usable for operations. The centre of the strip was dry but the edges were soft with water standing in the table drains at the side. The pilot said that the take-off run was normal until lift off when the aircraft lost 15 kts of airspeed as the right main wheel ran through a soft patch.

As result, the climb out was slow and shallow and the aircraft veered to the right of the strip. The pilot was unable to avoid trees about 100 m to the right of the strip. The left wing struck foliage but the pilot was able to keep the aircraft airborne. After landing the aircraft to assess the damage, the pilot found that the leading edge of the left wing was damaged.

