

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199703859**

**Rockwell International
Commander**

23 November 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.

Occurrence Number: 199703859 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Maitland, (ALA)
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 23 November 1997
Time: 1700 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Rockwell International
Aircraft Model: 114
Aircraft Registration: VH-SQX **Serial Number:** 14291
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Maitland NSW
Departure Time: 1620 ESuT
Destination: Maitland NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	487.0	3604

Approved for Release: Monday, March 9, 1998

The pilot of a Rockwell Commander 114 aircraft had completed a short local flight and was operating in the circuit pattern at Maitland. The pilot reported having difficulty sighting some slower traffic ahead.

The aircraft subsequently landed with its landing gear retracted, sliding for approximately 130 metres. The pilot and passenger were able to exit the aircraft without assistance. After establishing that it was safe to re-enter the aircraft the pilot & passenger checked that the power and fuel were switched off. At this stage they noted the gear selector was in the down position.

Post accident activation of the landing gear alternate extension system successfully lowered the gear. No defect was found with the operating system that would have prevented the landing gear from operating normally. Damage to the underside of the aircraft was consistent with the landing gear being retracted at the time of impact.