

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199600938**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
Skyhawk**

23 March 1996

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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: 199600938**Occurrence Type:** Accident**Location:** Nulyic Station, 130km E Port Hedland, Aerodrome**State:** WA**Inv Category:** 4**Date:** Saturday 23 March 1996**Time:** 0630 hours**Time Zone** WST**Highest Injury Level:** None**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Cessna Aircraft Company**Aircraft Model:** 172N**Aircraft Registration:** VH-PMC**Serial Number:** 17269392**Type of Operation:** Non-commercial Business**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial**Departure Point:** Nulyie Station Home Strip WA**Departure Time:** 0620 WST**Destination:** Nulyie Station Strip WA**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	300.0	350

Approved for Release: Monday, March 25, 1996

The pilot reported that a recent cyclone had blown a tree branch onto the strip. The branch was lying so that the top of one section was at least two metres above the ground. When he carried out a landing area inspection the pilot did not see the branch. He landed into the rising sun and did not sight the branch until it was too late to avoid it. The branch collided with the left wing leading edge about a third of a metre in from the tip.