

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199401734**

**Cameron Balloons Ltd
N-160**

19 June 1994

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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: 199401734 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Woodford
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 19 June 1994
Time: 0645 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cameron Balloons Ltd
Aircraft Model: N-160
Aircraft Registration: VH-HZH **Serial Number:** 1885
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Woodford QLD
Departure Time:
Destination: Caboolture Airfield QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	120.0	385

Approved for Release: Wednesday, March 6, 1996

It was reported that fuel usage during the flight appeared to be excessive and the burner flames were more yellow coloured than normal. The pilot suspected a problem with the fuel gas and decided to land before his supply ran out. During the approach, the pilot had difficulty in controlling the descent accurately because of an unusually slow response to control burns. Following three landing attempts, the balloon was landed in pine trees. Eleven envelope panels were torn.

Investigation with the gas supplier revealed that the fuel mixture was not the 97% Propane requested but a mixture of 35% propane and 65% propylene. It was not the first flight using this fuel mixture but it was the first time that the outside air temperature was as low as +5 degrees Celcius. Subsequent tests by the operator showed that the burners were inefficient with this gas at the lower temperatures.