

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199401855**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Archer**

15 July 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.

Occurrence Number: 199401855 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Keswick Island
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Friday 15 July 1994
Time: 1650 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-28-181
Aircraft Registration: VH-FTL **Serial Number:** 28-7990107
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Keswick Island QLD
Departure Time: 1645 EST
Destination: Mackay QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	ATPL 2nd Class	2010.0	3440

Approved for Release: Tuesday, February 20, 1996

At approximately 500 ft after take-off the engine began to run roughly.

The aircraft was immediately positioned for a landing back on to the departure runway. The engine was still developing sufficient power at this point to complete a climbing turn to 800 ft. Approximately mid-down wind, the engine began to run very roughly and then lost all power. In the subsequent forced landing the aircraft touched down approximately one third of the way along the runway. The pilot was unable to bring the aircraft to a halt in the distance remaining to avoid overrunning the the end of the strip. The aircraft came to rest part way down the sloping sea wall at the end of the runway. All three occupants were able to evacuate the aircraft safely.

Examination of the engine found that the centre electrodes for both spark plugs in the number four cylinder were excessively lead fouled and unable to fire. The porcelain surrounding the electrode on the top spark plug for number two cylinder was also cracked and indications were that this plug was firing intermittently. No other faults were found that could have contributed to to the power loss.

