

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199403837**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
Super Skymaster**

30 November 1994

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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:	199403837	Occurrence Type:	Accident
Location:	Maitland		
State:	NSW	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Wednesday 30 November 1994		
Time:	1630 hours	Time Zone	ESuT
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Cessna Aircraft Company		
Aircraft Model:	337F		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-AEJ	Serial Number:	33701326
Type of Operation:	Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel		
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial		
Departure Point:	Moomba SA		
Departure Time:			
Destination:	Maitland NSW		

Approved for Release: Monday, May 8, 1995

The pilot reported that during two attempts to land on Runway 08 he experienced handling difficulties with the aircraft. He eventually landed on Runway 05. An inspection subsequently revealed the propeller had suffered a ground strike and the left main landing gear door was open.

A gusting crosswind of 15 to 25 knots was reported at the time of the occurrence.

Investigation determined that the locking balls were missing from the left main gear door actuator which would allow the door to open if hydraulic pressure was lost. An intermittent open circuit was also detected in the gear extend circuit. This defect caused the hydraulic pump to stop intermittently and may have resulted in the left door opening in flight.

Had the left main gear door opened during the landing sequence it may have contributed to the handling difficulties experienced by the pilot in the gusting crosswind conditions.