Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199200771

Cessna Aircraft Company 402B

12 December 1992

Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199200771

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 199200771 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Jabiru

State: NT Inv Category: 4

Date: Saturday 12 December 1992

Time: 1615 hours Time Zone CST

Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company

Aircraft Model: 402B

Aircraft Registration: VH-DTV Serial Number: 402B-0567

Type of Operation: Charter Passenger

Damage to Aircraft:SubstantialDeparture Point:Jabiru NTDeparture Time:1615 CSTDestination:Darwin NT

Approved for Release: Thursday, March 24, 1994

The aircraft taxied for runway 27 at Jabiru for a flight to Darwin. There was light rain on the threshold of runway 09 and a wind velocity of approximately 290 degrees at 10 knots with active thunderstorms approaching from the east.

After takeoff, the aircraft climbed normally until about 100 feet above ground level, then began to sink. Full power was being indicated on the engine instruments for both engines. However, the pilot noticed that the airspeed was decreasing. He set the best rate of climb speed and selected the landing gear up to reduce drag. The aircraft continued to descend until it struck the runway. It slid along the runway for about 200 metres before stopping. The pilot and passengers vacated the aircraft uninjured.

A witness noticed a wind shift as the aircraft commenced its takeoff and it is possible that the aircraft encountered a microburst just after lift off.