

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902555**

Cessna A188B-A1

26 May 1989

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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: 198902555 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: "Wilgabar" 15km ENE of Walgett NSW

Date: 26 May 1989 **Time:** 1430

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Cessna A188B-A1

Registration: VH-KZB

Serial Number: 18803039T

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Walgett NSW

Departure Time: N/K

Destination: Walgett NSW

Approved for Release: 15 January 1990

Circumstances:

The aircraft was engaged in spraying a large paddock. The weather was fine with a light wind. On the third run of the fifth load, the markers were positioned in such a way that there was a tree located directly on the intended swath run. A second tree lay behind, and to the right, of the first tree. The pilot estimated he could carry out a turn and pass between the two trees, to enable the spray pattern to be kept reasonably uniform. The pilot misjudged the manoeuvre and overshot the turn, resulting in the right wing of the aircraft striking a branch protruding from the second tree. About half a metre was lost from the outboard section of the right wing. The right aileron was bent and remained attached to the aircraft solely by the inboard hinge. The right spray boom was ruptured, allowing chemical to escape. Partial control was maintained and the pilot made an emergency landing, without further damage, on an adjoining paddock. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation. The report is based on information provided by the pilot.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot made an improper in-flight decision in attempting to manoeuvre the aircraft between the trees.
2. The pilot misjudged a turn in a confined area.