

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198600152**

Agusta Bell 206B

19 November 1986

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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: 198600152 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 15km North-west of Karratha WA

Date: 19 November 1986 **Time:** 1445

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Agusta Bell 206B

Registration: VH-BHV

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Aerial Work-Sling loading cargo

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: "Dampier Salt" Wharf, Dampier WA

Departure Time: 1445

Destination: "Dampier Salt" Wharf, Dampier WA

Approved for Release: January 13th 1987

Circumstances:

The helicopter was tasked to sling load two large metal hooks between two points on a wharf. The first hook was off-loaded, but as the helicopter was lifting the second hook, the tail rotor contacted a solar panel at the top of a light pole. Control of the aircraft was lost and it was observed to perform a nose high turn before striking the water. The helicopter floated inverted and the pilot was able to evacuate himself and swim to a boat. It is considered likely that while concentrating on the position of the load, the pilot diverted his attention from the operation of the helicopter and allowed it to descend, which resulted in the tail rotor strike.