

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702020**

**Bell Helicopter Co  
47G-3B-1 Soloy**

**08 January 1997**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199702020                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Leeton  
**State:** NSW    **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Wednesday 08 January 1997  
**Time:** 1600 hours                                      **Time Zone** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Bell Helicopter Co  
**Aircraft Model:** 47G-3B1  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-HGM                      **Serial Number:** 6597  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial    Aerial Agriculture - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:**  
**Departure Time:** 1200 EST  
**Destination:**

**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	640.0	6074

**Approved for Release:** Friday, September 12, 1997

The helicopter was spraying a melon crop when the main rotor came into contact with a steel rod in the crop . The subsequent rotor imbalance necessitated a forced landing. The helicopter subsequently landed heavily, and the main rotor blades cut off the tail boom resulting in substantial damage. This accident was not reported.

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