

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198301307**

Bell 206B

17 July 1983

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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 CEO 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.

Occurrence Number: 198301307

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Lake Burragorang NSW

Date: 17 July 1983

Time: 1211

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 206B

Registration: VH-KMX

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Pleasure Flying

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Bankstown NSW

Departure Time: 1211

Destination: Bankstown NSW

Approved for Release: 27th February, 1984

Circumstances:

The helicopter was being flown along a watercourse at a height of about 10 ft and an airspeed of about 85 kt. As the pilot rotated the aircraft to commence a climb the rear of the landing skids struck the water. The helicopter pitched forward, overturned and sank. The water surface at the time of the accident was smooth and glassy. The judgement of height above such a surface is difficult. The inexperienced pilot was apparently aware of these difficulties, however, on this occasion misjudged the height of the helicopter above the water as he selected the climb attitude.