

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602660**

Bell 47 G5A

27 July 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: 198602660 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Strathmore, 160km East of Normanton QLD

Date: 27 July 1986 **Time:** 1000

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	0
Total	0	2	0	0

Aircraft Details: Bell 47 G5A

Registration: VH-BHQ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private(Stock mustering)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Strathmore QLD

Departure Time: 1000

Destination: Strathmore QLD

Approved for Release: February 10th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was engaged in mustering cattle out of thick undergrowth. As he was moving the helicopter slowly forward, while checking the undergrowth for any remaining cattle, the main rotor moved under the overhanging branch of a large tree. The pilot attempted to move the helicopter down and to the right but the main rotor struck the overhanging branch. The helicopter impacted the ground and caught fire. The tree trunk was camouflaged by rubber vine, which constituted much of the undergrowth and probably reduced the pilot's awareness of the proximity of the tree.