

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198600151**

Aerospatiale AS350B

23 October 1986

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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: 198600151 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Harriet C Platform, 115km WNW of Dampier WA
Date: 23 October 1986 **Time:** 1707
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Aerospatiale AS350B
Registration: VH-ECU
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Charter-Positioning
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Lowendal Island WA
Departure Time: 1707
Destination: Harriet C Platform WA

Approved for Release: May 13th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that on late final approach he lost all visual reference due to sunglare. He decided to carry out a go-around but heard a loud noise and the helicopter started to rotate. He was able to fly the aircraft clear of the platform before it descended into the sea. As the aircraft sank the pilot exited through the left door and after inflating his life jacket swam to the platform. Witnesses on the platform reported that the tail rotor struck the platform. No fault was found with the aircraft that may have contributed to the occurrence. It is considered likely that on encountering the loss of visual reference, the pilot inadvertently placed the helicopter in a tail-low attitude causing the tail section to strike the platform. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.