

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803467**

Robinson R-22

3 July 1988

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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.

This accident was not the subject of an on site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198803467 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Van Lee Station (30 km NNE Georgetown) QLD
Date: 3 July 1988 **Time:** 945
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R-22
Registration: VH-ECP
Serial Number: N/K
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Animal Culling)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Van Lee Station QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Van Lee Station QLD

Approved for Release: 5 April 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that the helicopter was being hovered above trees when he felt a kick accompanied by a loss of power. He began to manoeuvre towards a clear area but had to pull up to avoid tree tops. The engine surged again and the rotor RPM began to decay. By the time the helicopter was over the clearing the "ROTOR LOW RPM" warning horn was sounding. Shortly afterwards, the helicopter struck the ground heavily in a level attitude. No fault was found with the helicopter which might have explained the reported power loss. However, the aircraft had been transported a considerable distance over rough terrain before it was examined. This could have allowed possible causal evidence to be disturbed.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. For reason(s) not established, the helicopter suffered a power loss.
2. The terrain in the immediate area was unsuitable for a forced landing.
3. The helicopter landed heavily after the pilot attempted to reach a clear area in which to land the aircraft.