

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903762**

Robinson R22A

5 April 1989

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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: 198903762 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Bunda Bunda Station (85 km NE Julia Creek) QLD
Date: 5 April 1989 **Time:** 830
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: Robinson R22A
Registration: VH-HBD
Serial Number: 488
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Bunda Bunda Station QLD
Departure Time: 0730
Destination: Bunda Bunda Station QLD

Approved for Release: 4th July 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was assisting stockmen to move cattle through a gate when one animal broke away. While manoeuvring to cut off the escaping animal, the helicopter struck a single wire power line which traversed the area. The power line was approximately 11 metres above ground level at the point where the collision occurred. The impact caused the main rotor to sever the tailboom and the helicopter fell to the ground and caught fire. The pilot was aware of the location of the power line and had been working in close proximity to it prior to the accident. This occurrence was not the subject of an on-site investigation. The information was provided by witnesses to the accident.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilots attention was occupied by the escaping animal.
2. The single strand power line is extremely difficult to see against the scrub background and there were no visual cues to alert the pilot of its proximity.