

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502556**

Robinson R22A

3 October 1985

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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: 198502556 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Reola Station, 83 km WSW of Wanaaring NSW
Date: 3 October 1985 **Time:** 1030
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22A
Registration: VH-UXR
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Survey)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Reola Station NSW
Departure Time: 1030
Destination: Reola Station NSW

Approved for Release: July 31st 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot intended to land the helicopter near a water tank so that he could free sheep bogged in the muddy ground. When the aircraft was at about 80 feet agl on descent, the pilot applied power and raised the collective to reduce the rate of descent. He heard a bang, followed by a noise he described as clutch growl and the helicopter began to vibrate severely. The collective was lowered momentarily and power was reapplied, however, the clutch growl and vibration continued. The pilot lowered the collective but the helicopter struck the ground firmly at a low forward speed and the main rotor severed the tail boom. Subsequent investigation revealed that the clutch had suffered an overload failure, however the reason for the failure was not determined. The associated loss of power occurred at a height and speed combination which precluded the pilot from establishing an autorotative descent.