

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198300025**

Hughes 269-C

3 May 1983

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 198300025

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 40 Km East of Emerald QLD.

Date: 3 May 1983

Time: 840

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Hughes 269-C

Registration: VH-CHN

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Cattle Mustering

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: River-Lea Station

Departure Time: 0840

Destination: Riverside Station

Approved for Release: 8th March, 1984

Circumstances:

The helicopter was weaving back and forth driving cattle. Height was about 30 ft and airspeed about 25 kt. The pilot heard a loud bang and believed the engine had failed. An autorotation was carried out into trees. The cause of the loud bang and the power loss reported by the pilot could not be determined. There was no suitable area available for the subsequent autorotational landing initiated by the pilot.