

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602655**

Bell 47-G3B1

03 July 1986

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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: 198602655

Location: Coleman River (270 km South Weipa) QLD

Date: 03 July 1986

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 730

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 47-G3B1

Registration: VH-ANG

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Aerial Work (Stock Inspection)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Kowanyama QLD

Departure Time: 0730

Destination: Kowanyama QLD

Approved for Release: May 1st 1987

Circumstances:

The helicopter was being used in a program of disease eradication in cattle. After operating for about one hour, the pilot flew to a boat anchored in the river and hovered alongside it while signalling to the crew that the aircraft would return in about two hours. As the helicopter left the hover it was climbed to approximately 60 feet in a left turn through 270 degrees. The aircraft was then descended to an unnecessarily low altitude while gaining speed. Shortly afterwards, as the aircraft approached the bank of the river, the pilot realised that the aircraft was not responding to control inputs as he had expected. He applied more collective control in an effort to avoid flying into the water, but the rotor overpitched and the aircraft struck the water at about 40 knots. No defect was found that would have prevented normal operation of the flight controls or engine.