

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199000093**

**Hughes 269C**

**14 July 1990**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199000093                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Yandiarra Station (100 km S Port Headland) WA  
**Date:** 14 July 1990                      **Time:** 1730  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Hughes 269C  
**Registration:** VH-SMQ  
**Serial Number:** 1290876  
**Operation Type:** Aerial Work  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Yandiarra Station WA  
**Departure Time:** N/A  
**Destination:** Yandiarra Station WA

**Approved for Release:** 25th October 1990

#### **Circumstances:**

The pilot was attempting to prevent a herd of cattle from turning towards water by flying parallel to the cattle drive and between it and a creek bed. The aircraft was 10 feet above ground level and travelling at 10 knots when the tail boom and rotor collided with the top beam of a shed frame. The pilot was unable to retain control of the aircraft and it crashed next to the frame. The pilot was aware of the location of the rust coloured metal frame, however he had temporarily forgotten about it. The cattle drive had drawn his attention away from the aircraft's flight path and possible obstacles. A fine layer of dust covered the windscreen and with the setting sun, in front of the aircraft, visibility was reduced to the point where the pilot did not see the frame which blended into the rocky background.

#### **Significant Factors:**

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

1. The pilot forgot about the frame due to his concentrating on the cattle drive.
2. The pilot's visibility was impaired by the dusty windscreen, the setting sun and the lack of contrast between the frame and the background.