

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199003097

Hughes 269C

30 August 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.

Occurrence Number: 199003097

Location: 31 km SW of Hay Point QLD

Date: 30 August 1990

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1830

	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: Hughes 269C

Registration: VH-THV

Serial Number: 880710

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Peak Downs QLD

Departure Time: N/K

Destination: Hay Point QLD

Approved for Release: 3rd June 1991

Circumstances:

The aircraft began the outbound flight with full tanks and an anticipated endurance of 312 minutes. On the return flight, at about 90 kilometres from the destination, the low fuel warning light illuminated. The pilot landed at a property close by and added 30 litres of fuel to the helicopter before continuing the flight. However, the engine failed due to fuel exhaustion some 20 kilometres from the destination. During the subsequent forced landing, which occurred 14 minutes after last light, the helicopter rolled over.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot miscalculated the fuel consumption rate.
2. The pilot did not land before last light.
3. He did not land before fuel was exhausted.
4. The engine failed due to fuel exhaustion.
5. A forced landing was conducted on unsuitable terrain.