

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198503537**

Hughes 269C

14 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: 198503537

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Bathampton (8 km north-west of Clermont) QLD

Date: 14 October 1985

Time: 610

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: Hughes 269C

Registration: VH-WPP

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Business-Ferry

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Leigh Holme (4 km east of Clermont) QLD

Departure Time: 0610

Destination: Epping Forest QLD

Approved for Release: November 6th 1986

Circumstances:

About five minutes after take-off, the pilot heard a change in engine note and felt a slight yaw to the left. This occurred several times in quick succession. The pilot reduced power and commenced a descent towards a disused mining area. At about 200 feet agl, the engine failed and an autorotational descent was set up. As the pilot was attempting to manoeuvre the helicopter into wind and clear of some mullock heaps, the helicopter touched down heavily on the rear of the landing skids and the tail rotor struck the ground. The main rotor then severed the tail boom and the helicopter came to rest ten metres from the initial point of impact. The engine oil cooler supply line was too short for its length of run and was routed past a stud on one of the magnetos. The stud abraded the line to the point where it caused it to leak and the loss of oil resulted in the engine seizing.