

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198703484**

**HUGHES 269C**

**22 June 1987**

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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.

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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:** 198703484                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 130 kms SE Charters Towers QLD  
**Date:** 22 June 1987                      **Time:** 1145 approx  
**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** HUGHES 269C  
**Registration:** VH-KLQ  
**Serial Number:** 470592  
**Operation Type:** Private  
**Damage Level:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Scartwater Station QLD  
**Departure Time:** 1030  
**Destination:** Scartwater Station QLD

**Approved for Release:** June 22nd 1988

**Circumstances:**

The helicopter was being used to spot cattle. During what was apparently the first sweep of the area, the helicopter passed over the crest of a ridge and collided with a single power line. The angle between the fore-and-aft axis of the helicopter and the wire was approximately 40 degrees. The helicopter slid along the wire before the tail boom and then the tail rotor contacted the wire. The helicopter came to rest in a nearby gully. No fault was found in the aircraft powerplant or systems which might have contributed to the accident. Neither the pilot nor the passenger had conducted spotting operations in the area previously, and there was no evidence that either was aware of the position of the wire. It is likely that the helicopter crossed the ridge at a very low level and approximately 40 metres from a power pole carrying the wire. Background vegetation and overcast conditions may have made it difficult to distinguish the wire and power pole.