Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198702392

Bell 47-G2

10 March 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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198702392 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Torry Plains Station (90 km NE Balranald) NSW
Date: 10 March 1987 **Time:** 1230
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: Bell 47-G2
Registration: VH-KHK
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Property Inspection)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Torry Plains Station NSW
Departure Time: 1230
Destination: Torry Plains Station NSW

Approved for Release: July 8th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that as he brought the aircraft into the hover in preparation for landing, it sank to the ground from a height of about 15 feet. The tailrotor blades struck a lygnum bush and the drive shaft sheared. The pilot indicated that the main rotor rpm had decayed, possibly from over-pitching during the latter stages of the approach. Operations had been conducted in gusty wind conditions. When the pilot noted that the main rotor speed had decayed to 2800 rpm, he applied more power but was unable to arrest the rate of descent.