

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198500126**

Bell 206B

18 January 1985

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198500126 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Legrendre Island WA (37 km Nth of Karratha)

Date: 18 January 1985 **Time:**

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	0

Aircraft Details: Bell 206B

Registration: VH-WNB

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Carriage of cargo

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Legrendre Island WA

Departure Time: 0

Destination: MV "Western Odyssey"

Approved for Release: 14th May, 1985

Circumstances:

After establishing level flight with an external sling load, the pilot felt a bump from the rear of the helicopter. He corrected the accompanying pitch change and then a second bump was felt. The load was jettisoned and immediately the helicopter began yawing to the right. The pilot was unable to regain control before the helicopter struck the ground. The pilot had not flown helicopters for two years and although he had recently completed a check flight, slung operations were not covered. On this operation the pilot was substituted for another pilot who was unavailable. The load carried on this run was identical to loads previously carried, but much lighter. The pilot elected to use the same cruise speed as for the heavier loads. The load became unstable and encountered the tail boom. Upon its release the load slid back and was struck by the tail rotor, breaking off one blade and snapping the drive shaft.