

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199003090**

Robinson R22-Beta

5 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.

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199003090 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Near Lorraine Station QLD
Date: 5 August 1990 **Time:** 725
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-Beta
Registration: VH-HIW
Serial Number: 706
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Yambungan QLD
Departure Time: 0605
Destination: Neumayer Valley QLD

Approved for Release: 25th October 1990

Circumstances:

During the flight the engine surged without warning and the pilot elected to land in a cleared area, to investigate the engine problem. The engine failed completely during the latter stage of the approach resulting in a heavy landing short of the cleared area. Subsequent investigation by the pilot revealed that the auxiliary fuel tank was completely empty. The main fuel gauge indicated that the main fuel tank was full of fuel. The two fuel tanks cannot be selected individually and fuel from both is supplied simultaneously. On this occasion it appears that only fuel from the auxiliary fuel tank reached the carburettor. The duration of the flight is consistent with this assumption. Examination by the company maintenance organisation revealed that a plastic hose in the main fuel tank vent line was pinched, possibly during the accident. Maintenance had been carried out before the previous flight, which had lasted 40 minutes. However, the work entailed the removal of the auxiliary fuel tank during which the main fuel vent line was not moved. No other fault was found.