

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502580**

Buffier Gyroplane

14 January 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: 198502580

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 1 km South Rylstone NSW

Date: 14 January 1985

Time: 1100 aprx

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Buffier Gyroplane

Registration: Not required

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Sheep spotting/Sport
Aviation

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Rylstone NSW

Departure Time: 1100 aprx

Destination: Rylstone NSW

Approved for Release: 4th November, 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot was undertaking his second flight for the day. His intention was to locate some stock on a property and on sighting a flock of sheep he descended to a very low height. While manoeuvring at this height the rotor rpm and airspeed decayed, and the pilot found that the aircraft had insufficient performance to clear a fence. The aircraft struck the fence and cartwheeled. The pilot and the seat/fuel tank were thrown clear of the wreckage, but the pilot sustained severe head injuries when he was struck by a rotor blade, despite the fact he was wearing a crash helmet. The aircraft was not fitted with a tachometer to indicate main rotor rpm, and the pilot had to rely on rotor noise to judge the speed.