

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198900832**

Robinson R22-B

16 October 1989

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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: 198900832

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 100 km SE Darwin NT

Date: 16 October 1989

Time: 930

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: Robinson R22-B

Registration: VH-KSI

Serial Number: 577

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: 100 km SE Darwin NT

Departure Time: 0830

Destination: 100 km SE Darwin NT

Approved for Release: 20th December 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was engaged in mustering pigs for aerial culling. On spotting a group of animals, he flared the helicopter from about 50 knots to a slow speed and then banked hard to the left at low level. The main rotor blade tips struck long grass and the helicopter rolled over and came to rest on its left side. The area of operations comprised a virtual "sea of grass", unrelieved by any trees or other vegetation. Judgement of height above the ground under such conditions is more difficult than usual. The manoeuvre flown by the pilot would have exacerbated the problem.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Featureless terrain.
2. Pilot misjudged height above the ground during a rapidly executed turn.