

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199801330**

**Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Kawasaki KH4**

20 April 1998

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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: 199801330 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Seaforth
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 20 April 1998
Time: 1100 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Aircraft Model: 47G3B-KH4
Aircraft Registration: VH-JHM **Serial Number:** 2199
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture/Baiting
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point:
Departure Time:
Destination:

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	897.4	1047

Approved for Release: Wednesday, September 2, 1998

The operator and pilot reported that the helicopter struck a single-wire-earth-return (SWER) power line at the beginning of a swath run during a spraying operation. The orientation of the cane paddock being sprayed was north-east / south-west with a major power line running through the north-eastern corner. A SWER power line running east -west joined the main power line over the paddock.

The pilot had sprayed the western edge of the paddock, flying the helicopter over the main power line on each spray run. As the pilot moved his spray effort further east on each swathe run, he concentrated on missing and flying over the main power line. On one pass he lost awareness of the SWER line and during descent onto the crop the mast of the helicopter struck the line. The helicopter rolled into the crop. The pilot was not injured

