

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199801863**

**Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Kawasaki KH4**

23 May 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: 199801863 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Bellburn Airstrip
State: WA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 23 May 1998
Time: 1600 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Aircraft Model: 47G3B-KH4
Aircraft Registration: VH-SUC **Serial Number:** 2114
Type of Operation: Charter Positioning
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Turkey Creek Roadhouse WA
Departure Time: 1530 EST
Destination: Bellburn Airstrip

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	580.0	650

Approved for Release: Tuesday, June 16, 1998

The pilot reported that he descended to approximately 150 ft AGL as he was approaching Bellburn airstrip, and decided to overfly the windsock. He noted that the wind was an easterly breeze of about 7 knots. The pilot then intended to carry out a left turn, fly a downwind leg, and terminate into wind. He then rolled on about 50 degrees of bank, and shortly afterwards the helicopter began shaking violently. The helicopter then rotated through 180 degrees and adopted a nose down attitude. The pilot said he applied full power and full collective control, but was unable to prevent the helicopter striking the ground.

A witness located near the parking area saw the helicopter bank steeply and then begin to descend. The tail rotor then hit a patio attached to an office building and the main rotor struck a tree just before the helicopter impacted the ground.

