

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199802512**

**Robinson Helicopter Co  
R22**

**01 July 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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199802512      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Brunette Downs, (ALA)  
**State:** NT      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Wednesday 01 July 1998  
**Time:** 1430 hours      **Time Zone** CST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Robinson Helicopter Co  
**Aircraft Model:** R22 BETA  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-BFA      **Serial Number:** 2495  
**Type of Operation:** Non-commercial Aerial Mustering  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Brunette Downs NT  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Brunette Downs NT

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	555.0	731

**Approved for Release:** Tuesday, July 14, 1998

The wind at the time was reported to be from the south-east at 15 to 20 kt with gusts to 25 kts. The pilot had flown away from a mob of cattle at 50 kts in a south-westerly direction across the wind, to check on some other animals. He then reduced speed and turned left into wind at a height of about 15 ft above ground level. As he was rolling out of the turn, the helicopter sank to the ground. The helicopter cartwheeled forward and came to rest inverted.

The aircraft was within weight and balance limits for the flight and was reported to have been operating normally before the accident. The pilot reported having flown 6.4 hours that day.

