

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199700664**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22**

04 March 1997

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199700664 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 65km W Julia Creek, (ALA)
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 04 March 1997
Time: **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R22 BETA
Aircraft Registration: VH-BHK **Serial Number:** 2238
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Aerial Mustering
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Dalgonally HS QLD
Departure Time:
Destination: Clonagh HS QLD

Approved for Release: Friday, May 9, 1997

Sequence of events

The pilot reported that he was engaged in moving cattle on a flooded property. On board the helicopter with the pilot was the property owner. While hovering at about 30-40 feet behind some cattle, the pilots attention was diverted momentarily allowing the engine and main rotor RPM to decay. He was unable to regain rotor RPM and elected to attempt a landing onto a nearby dry patch of ground. In turning the helicopter towards the dry ground the pilot inadvertently turned down wind, overpitching the main rotor blades. During the ensuing deep flare to land, the tail rotor contacted the water and the main rotor blades severed the tailboom. The helicopter then settled into the water and rolled over. Both the pilot and passenger were able to exit the helicopter safely.