

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199701565**

**Robinson Helicopter Co  
R22**

**15 May 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](http://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:** 199701565                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 28km SE Armraynald, (ALA)  
**State:** QLD                      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Thursday 15 May 1997  
**Time:** 1500 hours                      **Time Zone** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Robinson Helicopter Co  
**Aircraft Model:** R22 BETA  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-LOT                      **Serial Number:** 0698  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Aerial Mustering  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Armraynald QLD  
**Departure Time:** 1355 EST  
**Destination:** Armraynald QLD

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	1218.8	1239

**Approved for Release:** Thursday, June 19, 1997

The owner reported that the tail rotor of the helicopter came into contact with a small tree as the pilot was pushing some cattle into a yard. The helicopter then spun out of control to the ground, landing heavily on the left skid before rolling over. The pilot was able exit the helicopter without injury. The owner advised the helicopter was damaged beyond economical repair.

Post flight examination showed that one of the tail rotor blades had separated in flight when it came into contact with the tree.