

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702650**

**Sikorsky Aircraft  
S76**

**19 August 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).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199702650                      **Occurrence Type:** Incident  
**Location:** 22km SE Sedco 702 Oil Rig  
**State:** WA    **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Tuesday 19 August 1997  
**Time:** 1120 hours                                      **Time Zone** WST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Sikorsky Aircraft  
**Aircraft Model:** S-76A  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-LAQ                      **Serial Number:** 760112  
**Type of Operation:** Charter                      Passenger  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Sedco 702 Oil Rig WA  
**Departure Time:** 1112 WST  
**Destination:** Karratha WA

**Approved for Release:** Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The pilot reported that shortly after levelling off and at the commencement of cruise checks there was a loud bang followed by a shudder. The pilots first reaction was to check the caution panel and engine transmission temperatures and pressures. All indications appeared normal. The pilot then reduced power slightly suspecting a possible drive train malfunction. However, his attention was then diverted to a flapping noise at the front of the aircraft, at which time he observed that the right hand forward float bag was deployed, but uninflated. He continued to reduce power, reduced airspeed to 75 knots, and commenced a turn back towards the Sedco 702 platform.

