

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603314**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22**

15 October 1996

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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: 199603314 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 28km NNW Brunchilly, (ALA)
State: NT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 15 October 1996
Time: 0945 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R22 BETA
Aircraft Registration: VH-LKS **Serial Number:** 1163
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Mustering
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Brunchilly Station NT
Departure Time: 0935 CST
Destination: Brunchilly Station NT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	500.0	500

Approved for Release: Thursday, October 17, 1996

The pilot was trying to muster a herd of about 12 head of cattle away from a bore to yards a couple of miles away. The cattle persisted in trying to return to the bore for water. The pilot hoped to overcome the cattle's reluctance to move by flaring the helicopter low and close to the herd. He flared down to about 5 ft and 5 kts across the herd's direction of movement and about 5 metres from the lead animal. During the flare, one bullock darted from the herd towards the right rear of the helicopter. The pilot felt a slight thump through the airframe. He immediately increased power to move on but the helicopter yawed right rapidly. By the time the pilot managed to close the throttle, the helicopter had turned through 360 degrees. Once the throttle was closed the rate of yaw diminished and the helicopter rapidly settled to the ground; it contacted first with the right skid which broke. Then, as the helicopter rolled onto its right side, the main rotors were destroyed by ground impact.

When the bullock darted towards the rear of the helicopter, it impacted the spinning tail rotor with its back and broke off both of the tail rotor blades.