

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199401035**

**Robinson Helicopter Co  
R22**

**17 April 1994**

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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:** 199401035      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 54km NW Bulman  
**State:** NT      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Sunday 17 April 1994  
**Time:** 1330 hours      **Time Zone:** CST  
**Highest Injury Level:** Minor  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	1	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Robinson Helicopter Co  
**Aircraft Model:** R22 BETA  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-XOX      **Serial Number:** 0554  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Aerial Mapping/Photo/Survey  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Cooinda NT  
**Departure Time:** 0715 CST  
**Destination:** 54km NW Bulman NT

**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	4500.0	9000

**Approved for Release:** Friday, August 26, 1994

The pilot landed the helicopter in an open grassy area to refuel from jerry cans.

He then decided to reposition the helicopter about 10 metres forward from the original landing point, and after the passenger alighted lifted the helicopter into the air and applied forward cyclic. It suddenly pitched forward sharply as if the front of the skids were caught, the main rotor blades striking the ground before the pilot could regain control.

The landing area was covered with medium height stiff grass that may have fouled the skids as the helicopter became airborne.

