

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199401665**

**Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Kawasaki KH4**

27 June 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.

Occurrence Number: 199401665
Location: 10km N Happy Valley Resort Fraser Island
State: QLD
Date: Monday 27 June 1994
Time: 1305 hours
Highest Injury Level: None

Occurrence Type: Accident
Inv Category: 4
Time Zone: EST

Aircraft Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
Aircraft Model: 47G3B-KH4
Aircraft Registration: VH-ATU
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Happy Valley Resort QLD
Departure Time: 1240 EST
Destination: 10km N Happy Valley QLD

Serial Number: 2178

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	156.0	160

Approved for Release: Wednesday, August 24, 1994

The helicopter had been chartered to transport persons associated with a Fraser Island resort to the area of the wreck of the "Maheno". After picking up a third passenger at the resort the helicopter headed north along the beach, flying passed the wreck, before heading in a southerly direction prior to commencing the approach to land.

The pilot stated that he was making an approach over the water to land on the beach to the north of the wreck when, at about 30 feet above sea level, he felt a "stiffness" in the cyclic control as he attempted to move it forward. Before he was able to access the situation, the helicopter descended into the water. The aircraft remained upright and all the occupants evacuated and made their way to the shore. The helicopter was subsequently rolled onto its side as a result of wave action.

Inspection of the wreckage and testing of the hydraulic components of the helicopter could find no fault with either the aircraft or the hydraulic system. The reason for the reported control stiffness could not be determined.

