

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199704314**

**Bell Helicopter Co
JetRanger III**

24 December 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.

Occurrence Number: 199704314 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: 11km S Jacobs Well, VOR
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Wednesday 24 December 1997
Time: 1600 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Bell Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: 206B (III)
Aircraft Registration: VH-JSM **Serial Number:** 3411
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Brisbane Qld
Departure Time: 0540 EST
Destination: Jacobs Well

Approved for Release: Tuesday, February 10, 1998

The pilot reported that he was ferrying the helicopter back to the company base after maintenance via a helicopter landing site near Jacobs Well. At approximately 200 ft AGL during the approach, the cyclic control became restricted in that the pilot was unable to introduce any left cyclic control. The pilot said there was insufficient control available to conduct a safe landing. Eventually, he was able to force the cyclic control free and land safely.

After landing, the pilot consulted the maintenance organisation and confirmed that work had been carried out under the front seats. The pilot then removed the front seats and discovered that the cyclic control had been jammed by a radio control box. The box had not been re-installed correctly after maintenance. The matter has been referred to CASA airworthiness at Brisbane for further investigation.

