ELECTROMAGNETIC HELICOPTER SURVEY FAQs

How does the survey work?

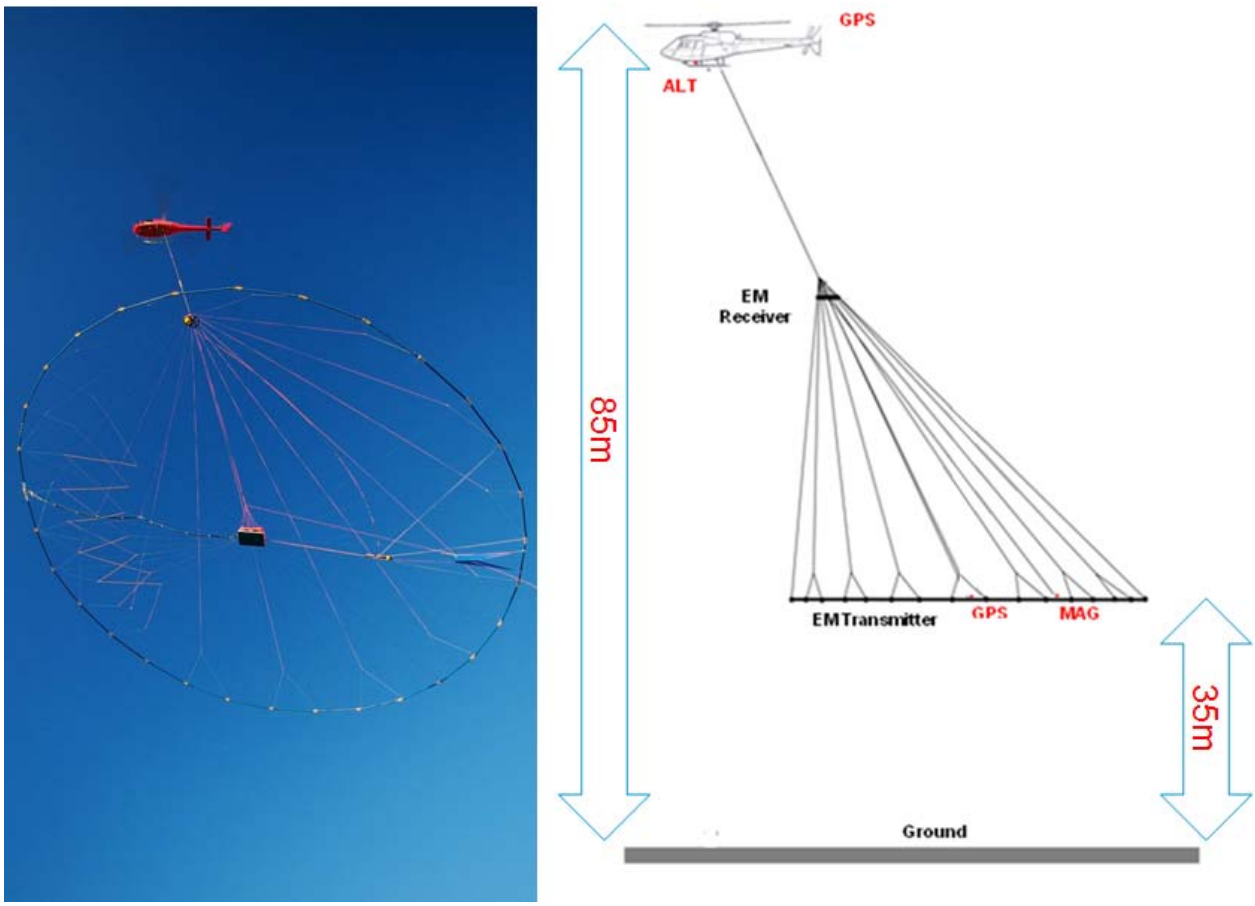
Electromagnetics involves the generation of a magnetic field via an electric current (from an on-board generator) pulsing through a wired “boom”, slung 50m below the aircraft. The resulting secondary magnetic field is measured by a detector mounted 30m below the aircraft.

Why is it useful?

The resulting data can provide a wide range of information for various uses including the location of underground water sources, areas of saline soil, mineral resources, subsurface faults, buried infrastructure or other items.

What does the survey system look like?

The nominal flying configuration has the helicopter at 85m above mean terrain level, defined as the tops of trees and any infrastructure. The boom measures 50m in diameter and has a clearance of 35m. The helicopter flies at roughly 100km/hour back-and-forth along pre-determined lines, guided by a GPS and radar altimeter.



Will the survey fly directly over my house?

The survey pilot will adhere to CASA regulations and safe operations at all times during the survey. This will mean the aircraft will not fly over dwellings or occupied vehicles.

Will the survey cause physical harm?

The electromagnetic field transmitted by the system is about the same level as the field generated by a normal electric kitchen stove set to high, and is around 10,000 times below what is considered safe for people and livestock.

Will the survey affect my TV/mobile phone/ radio reception?

The electromagnetic (EM) transmission operates on a completely different frequency to normal household equipment, and will not interfere in any way.

Will the survey affect livestock?

The noise and visual aspects of the survey may cause sensitive livestock to disperse. Horses are potentially the most sensitive, so stabling any susceptible animal for the day the survey comes through would be a good precaution. Generally animals become accustomed to the noise of the helicopter, as the survey approach is built progressively. The pilot will monitor the behavior of any animals encountered and if some appear to become stressed, they can move off the survey line to another area. The survey helicopter is accurately tracked and is fitted with time-stamped video should any incident need to be followed up.