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## PRESS RELEASE

### HELICOPTER ACCIDENT AT KIUNGA AIRPORT ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017

Shortly after 3.45pm on Wednesday 15 February 2017, the AIC was notified of a Helicopter accident at Kiunga Airport. The Bell 407 helicopter, registered P2-HSE, operated by Nuigini Helicopters, was conducting charter operations for Digicel, moving passengers and equipment and fuel drums.

Initial information indicates that the accident flight was carrying at least one passenger (possibly 2) and was connected by a long line beneath the helicopter to a net containing fuel drums. The circumstances of the mixed load of passengers and fuel drums are unclear at this stage. There was one pilot who is believed to be uninjured. At least one occupant was admitted to Kiunga hospital, and there are reports of injuries sustained by a bystander from flying objects liberated from the helicopter during the impact. These are yet to be confirmed.

The AIC has commenced an investigation and two investigators will arrive at Kiunga about 11:30 am Thursday to conduct an on-site investigation.

**DAVID INAU, ML**  
*Chief Executive Officer*