



MEDIA RELEASE

AIC RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT INTO AN AIRCRAFT LANDING ON A CLOSED RUNWAY AT GOROKA

On 5 December 2017, at 15:04 local time, the Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission was informed of a serious landing incident that occurred at Goroka Airport, Eastern Highlands Province on 2 December at 14:12 local time.

A Papua New Guinea Defence Force CASA CN235-100M aircraft, registered P2-502 and operating as Eagle 502, landed on a closed runway (35 Left) while runway works were in progress. The aircraft was observed to continue along the closed runway, before back tracking to a taxiway that was also closed for works, in order to taxi to, and enter, the active runway 35 Right.

Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) information about the runway works had been promulgated and available to pilots for more than a year prior to the occurrence. The crew had not obtained the NOTAM, and so were unaware of the runway works.

Following the serious incident the PNGDF Air Transport Wing took immediate safety action and established procedures to routinely receive NOTAMs electronically.

Mr Namani, AIC Chief Commissioner said "evidence obtained by the AIC has revealed a serious safety deficiency, and although not contributory to the serious incident poses an imminent risk of an accident or serious incident. The right engine propeller gearbox (PGB) had been in storage for 7 years. Storage preservation requirements state that a PGB in storage for more than 36 months must be inspected in an engine overhaul facility before fitment to an engine. That was not carried out prior to the PGB being fitted to the right engine on P2-502 in 2016, and the PGB remains on the aircraft as of the date of this Preliminary Report. The PGB is classified as unserviceable and therefore the aircraft was unairworthy at the time of the serious incident."

On 19 December 2017, the AIC Chief Commissioner issued a safety recommendation to the PNGDF urging the Commander PNGDF to require the replacement of the unserviceable Propeller Gearbox (PGB) currently fitted to the right engine of Casa CN235-100M aircraft, registered P2-502, before further flight.

The investigation is continuing.

A copy of the *Safety Recommendation AIC 17-R06/17-2002*, and *Preliminary Report AIC 17-2002*, are available on the PNG AIC website: www.aic.gov.pg

Approved:

Hubert Namani
Chief Commissioner

further information contact:

PNG Accident Investigation Commission
Alan L Stray, PSM
Investigations Manager
+675 3232911