



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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Safety Recommendation: AIC 22-R09/22-1002

Addressed to: Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation

Date issued: 09 November 2022

Investigation Link: AIC 22-1002

Action statuses: Issued

Introduction

On 26 January 2022 at 10:13 local time (00:13 UTC), the AIC was notified by Niugini Aviation Service Limited (NASL) via phone call of an accident involving a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by NASL at Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation.

Occurrence

On 26 January 2022, at about 9:43 local (23:43 UTC) a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BWC, owned and operated by Niugini Aviation Services Limited on a VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province to Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea, when during the landing roll, the aircraft sustained a left Main Landing Gear assembly collapse and subsequent runway excursion.

There were seven persons on board the aircraft, one pilot and six passengers. No injuries were reported.

The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

Safety deficiency description

During the investigation, AIC used the accident data from 2010 to 2022 and generated a graph showing the number of rural aircraft accidents in airstrip involving Operators operating under *CAR Part 135* and *CAR Part 125*. Also, a google earth display was generated from the data to show the rural airstrips and their respective locations.

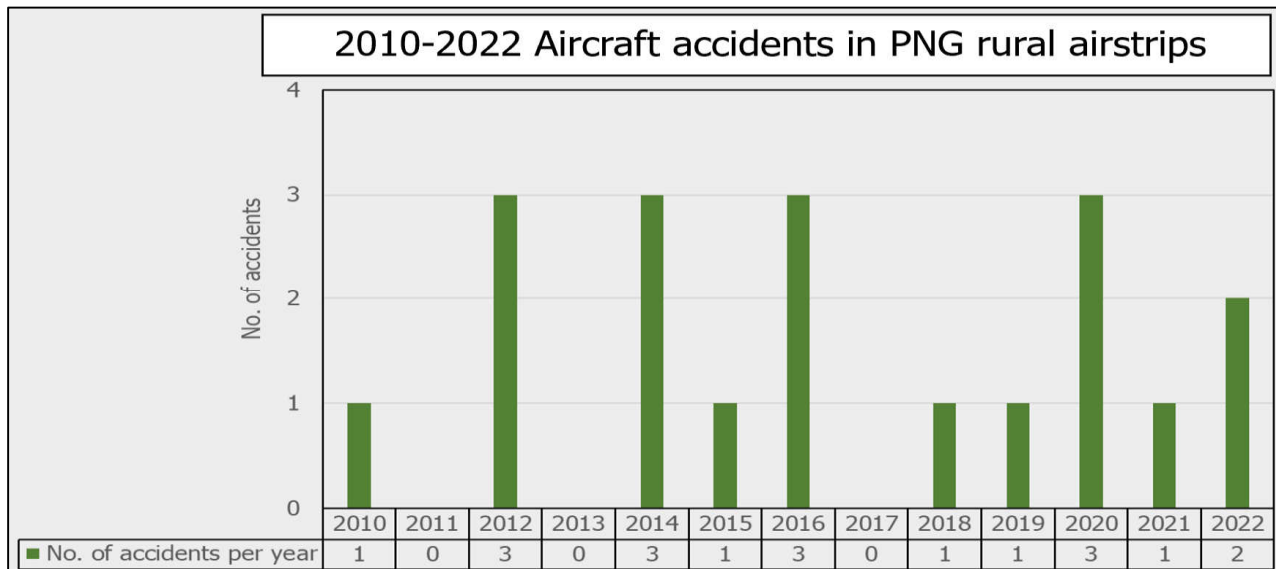


Figure 1: Rural Airstrip accidents per year



Figure 2: Accidents at rural airstrips and the geological locations of the airstrips

The AIC found that with an average of about two accidents per year, it has been an aviation safety concern for the travelling public into rural airstrips.

Recommendation number AIC 22-R09/22-1002 to Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission recommends that the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation should:

1. *take note of the safety concern in regard to aircraft accidents in PNG rural airstrip according to the 2010-2022 accident data provided,*
2. *ensure that this safety concern is brought to the attention of the Provincial Governments, where applicable, through the Department of Provincial Affairs and Local-level Government Affairs to;*
 - (a) *engage an appropriate party, such as Rural Airstrip Agency (RAA) to ensure airstrips are properly assessed and the data is represented accurately for safety of fixed wing aircraft operations and that the airstrips, and*
 - (b) *cause the dissemination of the result and data to CASA PNG and the Operator to support operational risk assessment.*

Action requested

The AIC requests that Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation note recommendation *AIC 22-R09/22-1001* and provide a response to the AIC within 90 days, but no later than 07 February 2023, and explain (including with evidence) how the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation has addressed the safety deficiency identified in the safety recommendation.



Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE

Acting Chief Commissioner

Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation Response to *Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R09/22-1002*

On 09 November 2022 the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation acknowledged receipt of *Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R09/22-1002*.

On 24 April 2023, the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation informed the Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) of the corrective action plan to address the safety deficiencies detailed in *Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R09/22-1002*.

The corrective action plan was finalised on 11 May 2023.

The AIC assessment of Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation Response

The AIC assessed the response from the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation and determined that the intended corrective actions when completed will address the safety deficiencies detailed in *Safety Recommendation AIC 22-R09/22-1002*.

The AIC assigned this response as *Satisfactory Intent* rating.

The AIC records the **status of the AIC Recommendation: CLOSED**



Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner

11 May 2023