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MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TROPICAIR LIMITED TWIN OTTER DHC6-300 SERIOUS INCIDENT AT KIKORI AIRSTRIP, GULF PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Ms. Maryanne J. Wal, today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report, AIC 24-2001, related to the Tropicair Twin Otter DHC6-300 aircraft, P2-BBM, runway excursion serious incident which occurred on 8 June 2024 at Kikori Airstrip, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea.

Ms. Wal explained, *“it is the policy of the AIC to publicly release a preliminary investigation report for each accident or serious incident being investigated, 30 days after the occurrence date pursuant to requirements of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.”*

At this stage, the AIC has established that the aircraft started veering towards the left of the centreline shortly after touchdown. The pilot subsequently attempted to get the aircraft back on to the centreline and the aircraft turned to the right towards the centreline, however it then began to veer further right. The PIC attempted to bring the aircraft left, back onto the centreline and slow it down, however the aircraft continued further left past the centreline and subsequently left the airstrip boundary. The aircraft rolled into a drainage ditch and impacted the embankment where it came to rest, partially bogged. The aircraft sustained damage to its nose cone and had a punctured nose wheel tyre.

There were 16 persons on board the aircraft; 2 pilots and 14 passengers. None of the aircraft's occupants were injured.

The investigation is continuing and will include environmental, operational, organisational and technical aspects and other areas as applicable. The analysis and findings of the investigation, safety actions taken, and any recommendations to address safety concerns will be included in the *Final Report*.

In accordance with its legal mandate, all AIC investigations are conducted with the sole purpose of improving safety for the travelling public, with complete independence from other State authorities, aviation service providers and stakeholders. AIC investigations do not apportion blame or liability to any person or organisation.

More information about this investigation can be found on the AIC's website: www.aic.gov.pg

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne Wal
Chief Commissioner