

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **A SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING A TWIN OTTER DHC-6-400 AIRCRAFT, P2-AXL, RUNWAY EXCURSION DURING LANDING AT KEREMA, GULF PROVINCE, HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO AN ACCIDENT**

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has announced today that it has elevated the classification of the ongoing investigation into the runway excursion experienced by a Tropicair Limited Twin Otter aircraft, DHC-6-400, registered P2-AXL, at Kerema Airport, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea, on 6 February 2025, from ‘Serious Incident’ to ‘Accident’.

The aircraft was on an IFR charter flight from Purari Airstrip to Kerema Airport, when it experienced a loss of directional control after landing, resulting in a runway excursion, at about 10:28 local time.

There were ten (10) persons on board; two (2) pilots and eight (8) passengers. No injuries were reported.



The AIC’s decision to reclassify the occurrence from ‘Serious Incident’ to ‘Accident’ comes after further onsite activities were conducted by the AIC on 8 February 2025. Following the removal of the aircraft from the drainage ditch, where it had come to rest after experiencing the runway excursion, the AIC was able to identify the full extent of the damage sustained by the aircraft. The AIC subsequently carried out an examination and assessment on the damage sustained by the aircraft nose and nose landing gear and determined the damage to be substantial,

which would adversely affect the structural strength, performance and flight characteristics of the aircraft and therefore, the aircraft would not be dispatched on a further flight without major repair or replacement of the affected component. The severity of the damage meets the criteria for an accident as defined in ICAO Annex 13, hence, the necessity for reclassification of the occurrence.

The ongoing investigation will include, but not limited to, the Aircraft and Pilot Performance, Airstrip Conditions, Weather, Maintenance and Serviceability of the aircraft, Organisational Aspects and Regulatory Oversight.

The AIC’s investigations are conducted independent of any other agency or person for the sole purpose of determining the circumstances and contributing factors so that vital lessons are learned, and similar occurrences are avoided.

More information about this investigation can be found at [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg)

*Authorised for release by:*

**Maryanne J. Wal**  
*Chief Commissioner*