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MEDIA RELEASE

FATAL ACCIDENT DURING AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT OPERATION IN RAMU, MADANG PROVINCE

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has commenced an investigation into an accident that occurred today at Sangkiang Village in the Ramu District, Madang Province, involving an Australian registered Cessna T188C aircraft, VH-SOY.

The aircraft is operated by an Australian company, Liddle's Aerial Spraying Pty Ltd, out of Gusap Airstrip, under hire agreement with Ramu Agri Ltd for agricultural spraying activities over the Ramu Agri owned plantations.

According to reports received from Ramu Agri Ltd (the hirer), the aircraft departed from Gusap Airstrip and was conducting routine low elevation agricultural operations over the Ramu Agri sugarcane plantations near Sangkiang Village. Ramu Agri management was subsequently informed by their field operations team at about 08:30am that the aircraft had crashed.

The pilot, the sole occupant of the aircraft, was fatally injured. It was reported that the pilot was rescued from the burning aircraft after it came to rest. However, by that time, he had already sustained severe burns and later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The AIC was notified of the accident by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea (CASA PNG) via email at 10:40 am today, 23 April 2025 and immediately commenced an investigation.

A team of investigators has been deployed and will arrive at the accident site early tomorrow morning.

The AIC's investigations are ongoing and will be 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

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner