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MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON LIDDLE'S AERIAL SPRAYING PTY LTD'S CESSNA T188C AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AT SANGKIANG VILLAGE, USINO BUNDI DISTRICT, MADANG PROVINCE

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report for investigation AIC 25-1002, related to the Liddle's Aerial Spraying Pty Ltd's Cessna T188C aircraft, VH-SOY, that impacted terrain at Sangkiang village, in the Usino Bundi District, Madang Province.

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 the requirements of *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

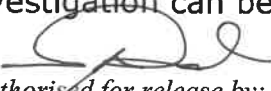
The aircraft took off from Gusap Airstrip at about 6:00 and flew 10 nm Northwest where it began its routine crop spraying activity. It is reported that at about 8:30, during the fourth round of spraying, the aircraft impacted terrain at Sankiang Village, immediately adjacent to the field. It was determined that a fire which originated in the aircraft destroyed the aircraft after coming to rest.

The pilot was the sole occupant of the aircraft and was fatally injured.

The investigation is continuing and without limiting the scope of the investigation, the AIC is looking into a range of areas, including flight operations, maintenance, organisational and safety management systems, regulatory oversight communication, weather, human factors and post-accident survival aspects

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 J. Wal
Chief Commissioner