



**INTERIM STATEMENT**

**AIC 20 - 2004**



**Tropicair Limited**

**P2-MEH**

**Cessna Citation 525B**

**Baggage Compartment Smoke Indication**

**40 nm NE of Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby**

**Papua New Guinea**

**29 October 2020**

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## ABOUT THE AIC

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The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) is an independent statutory agency within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The AIC is governed by a Commission and is entirely separate from the judiciary, transport regulators, policy makers and service providers. The AIC's function is to improve safety and public confidence in the aviation mode of transport through excellence in: independent investigation of aviation accidents and other safety occurrences within the aviation system; safety data recording and analysis; and fostering safety awareness, knowledge and action.

The AIC is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation in PNG, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving PNG registered aircraft. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations.

The AIC performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As amended)*, and the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1951*, and in accordance with *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk. AIC investigations determine and communicate the safety factors related to the transport safety matter being investigated.

It is not a function of the AIC to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include relevant factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. At all times the AIC endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why it happened, in a fair and unbiased manner.

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On 29 October 2020, at 13:27 local time (03:27 UTC), NiuSky Pacific Limited provided the AIC with details of an occurrence involving a Cessna Citation 525B aircraft, registered P2-MEH, owned and operated by Tropicair Limited that made a PAN call due to fire indication earlier that day, at about 30 nm Northeast of Port Moresby. The AIC immediately established contact with Tropicair Limited and CASA PNG and gathered additional information about the emergency event. Subsequently, the AIC commenced an investigation.

During the investigation conducted by the AIC, all relevant information regarding the occurrence was gathered and analysed. It included aircraft operations and maintenance, ground handling, survival aspects, organisational aspects, as well as other elements necessary to establish the cause, contributing factors and circumstances in which the occurrence took place.

Currently, the *Draft Final Report* is being reviewed by the involved parties in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. A number of parties have not yet provided comment as of this statement date. All comments are due on 30 October 2021, which is tomorrow. Certain consulting parties have requested for an extension to 05 November 2021. Thereafter, the AIC shall consider and review comments and make appropriate amendments to the report before releasing publicly as the *Final Report*. The *Final Report* is planned for release in November 2021.

Upon completion of period for comments to the *Draft Final Report*, the AIC will release the *Final Report* in accordance with *Annex 13 Paragraph 6.5*.



**Hubert Namani**  
*Chief Commissioner*  
29 October 2021