



## **INTERIM STATEMENT**

**AIC 22-1005**



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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 serious incidents 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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## Interim Statement

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In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.6*, the Accident Investigation Commission has made this *Interim Statement* in relation to investigation AIC 22-1005 publicly available.

The accident occurred on 1 December 2022, at about 15:17 local (05:17 UTC) involving an Airbus Helicopters MBB-BK117-D2 helicopter registered P2-PHA, operated by Pacific Helicopters Limited which was conducting a VFR medical evacuation (Medivac) flight from Fogomaio Airstrip, Southern Highlands Province to Tari Hospital, Hela Province, when during landing, a foreign object debris (FOD) ingested the helicopter's fenestron and caused substantial damage.

The AIC immediately established contact with Pacific Helicopters, gathered additional information about the occurrence and subsequently commenced an investigation.

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

The *Draft Final Report* is expected to be sent out to the State of Design, Manufacturer, any other States that participated in this investigation and also the other involved parties shortly after the anniversary date of the accident. In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3, Consultation*, those states will be invited to review the *Draft Final Report* and provide significant and substantiated comments in the report as soon as possible within 60 days. On completion of the consultation period, the AIC will make the report publicly available in accordance with *Annex 13 Paragraph 6.5*.



**Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE**

*Acting Chief Commissioner*

*1 December 2023*