



**INTERIM STATEMENT**

**AIC 23 - 1001**



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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.

## Interim Statement

In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.6*, the Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has, hereby, released this *Interim Statement* in relation to investigation AIC 23-1001.

Investigation AIC 23-1001 is in relation to an accident that occurred on 9 February 2023 at 12:50 local time, involving a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BJD, owned and operated by North Coast Aviation at Giramben Airstrip. The aircraft was conducting a VFR Charter flight from Giramben Airstrip, Jiwaka Province to Simbai Airstrip, Madang Province, when during take-off, the aircraft impacted terrain South of Giramben Airstrip. The aircraft was destroyed.

During the investigation conducted by the AIC, relevant information regarding the occurrence was gathered and analysed. It included flight operations, maintenance, ground handling, survival aspects, safety organisational aspects, as well as other elements necessary to establish the cause, contributing factors and circumstances in which the occurrence took place. As a result of the investigation into the accident, the AIC issued two safety recommendations to address safety deficiencies identified.

Currently, the *Draft Final Report* is being reviewed by the involved parties in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. All comments will be due on 22 February 2024, 60 days from the date of draft dissemination. Thereafter, the AIC shall, with consideration given to significant and substantiated comments, make appropriate amendments to the report before releasing publicly as the *Final Report* in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Paragraph 6.5*. The *Final Report* is planned for release in February 2024.



**Maryanne J Wal**  
*Chief Commissioner*

*9 February 2024*