



07/2026
21 February 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TROPICAIR LIMITED DE HAVILLAND CANADA DHC-6-300 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AT JACKSONS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PORT MORESBY, PNG

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) today publicly released the Preliminary Report for investigation AIC 26-1002, concerning a De Havilland Canada DHC-6-300 aircraft, registered P2-BBM, owned and operated by Tropicair Ltd.

In accordance with its Policy, and pursuant to the requirements of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the AIC releases a preliminary investigation report within thirty (30) days of the date of an accident or serious incident under investigation.

On 22 January 2026, the said aircraft departed Tapini Airstrip, Central Province, at approximately 09:33 local time on an IFR charter flight to Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby. During take-off at Tapini Airstrip, the aircraft's Nose Wheel Assembly detached, and the aircraft continued with the flight to Port Moresby Jacksons International Airport without its Nose Wheel Assembly. At around 10:57 local time, the crew conducted an emergency landing without the Nose Wheel on Runway 32L at Jacksons International Airport, resulting in the Nose Landing Gear Assembly sustaining further substantial damage during the landing roll.

There were twenty-one (21) persons on board the aircraft: Two Crew; the Pilot-in-Command (PIC), and the Co-Pilot and nineteen (19) passengers. There were no reported injuries.

The investigation remains ongoing and seeks to understand the circumstances and contributing factors associated with the occurrence. Areas under examination include, but are not limited to the flight operations, aircraft maintenance, Organisational aspects, human factors, and aircraft design and manufacture.

Consistent with its statutory mandate, the AIC conducts investigations solely for the purpose of enhancing aviation safety. The Commission operates independently of 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