



08/2026
24 April 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

SOLOMON ISLANDS DELEGATES HELICOPTER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TO PNG

The Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has commenced a full independent investigation (AIC 26-1003) into an accident that occurred on 17 April 2026 at about 15:40 local time in Solomon Islands. A twin-engine Bell 222U helicopter, registered H4-HSA, operated by Helicopter Support Limited, sustained engine failure in flight. The pilot elected to make a controlled forced landing onto a reef 2.5 NM south of Munda Airport, Western Province, Solomon Islands.

The State of Occurrence, Solomon Islands, requested Papua New Guinea, through the PNG AIC, to conduct the investigation under full delegation in accordance with ICAO Annex 13, Chapter 5, Standard 5.1. This delegation was also facilitated under the existing *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* between the PNG AIC and the Civil Aviation Authority of Solomon Islands (CAASI), signed on 27 September 2025, as a framework for cooperation in ICAO Annex 13 safety investigations and aligned with ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative.

AIC investigators were deployed to Munda to commence the on-site investigation. They were supported by investigators and support staff in Port Moresby.

The AIC has notified the relevant States of Manufacture, Canada and the United States of America, through the Transportation Safety Board of Canada and the National Transportation Safety Board of the United States of America as well as the ICAO, in accordance with ICAO Annex 13, Chapter 4, Standard 4.1. Through these safety boards, the investigation will liaise with the helicopter and engine manufacturers, as appropriate, to support a comprehensive analysis of the available evidence.

Relevant parties from the State of Occurrence, Solomon Islands will also participate in the investigation under the full authority of the AIC.

Further information on this investigation, including updates and published reports, will be available on the AIC website: www.aic.gov.pg.

Authorised for released by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner